FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Coast Guard Receives Guidelines

PY031322 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0955 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb (NA) -- Official sources have reported that today, the third day of the implementation of the "economic exclusion" zone established by the British Government, the Foreign Ministry asked the Defense Ministry to instruct the Coast Guard vessels patrolling the so-called "hot zone" in the South Atlantic to put "special attention" on the richest fishing grounds.

The sources commented on the first 48 hours of the implementation of the British exclusion zone, saying "for the time being everything is working normally and no clandestine fishing boats have been seen yet."

The sources told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that the five Coast Guard vessels of the Argentine Naval Prefecture that are patrolling the so-called "hot zone" in the South Atlantic "have precise instructions that, if a clandestine fishing boat is sighted, they must advise the Joint Chiefs of Staff Situation Room and ask for instructions." This information belies reports known so far that the vessels patrolling the South Atlantic had orders to "act immediately" if they detected foreign ships fishing clandestinely.

The sources told this agency that "for the time being there are no planes overflying the zone supporting the Coast Guard" because "the situation, as it now stands, does not demand reinforcements of that nature."

It has also been reported that the Coast Guard vessels have 50-mile range radars, which "means that they can cover large areas to detect any ship from a great distance." The patrols have so far been conducted under 40-knot winds which makes navigation more difficult; however, communications between the vessels and the ground stations "are permanent and in good technical order."

More than 250 boats from Spain, Chile, Japan, Italy, France, Taiwan, Poland, South Korea, and Great Britain have been fishing in the exclusion zone since 1 February. Their permits expire on 30 June 1987.

The fishing season in the zone will end in June because the weather conditions will make fishing activities very difficult afterward, but by then the British Government will have collected almost $11 million from the permits of enterprises operating in the region.

Argentine Naval Prefecture sources consulted by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS have reported that any boat that may be detected by the patrol vessels "will not be harassed." They added that in the same manner, Argentina "will not allow navigation, fishing, or operations in Argentine waters." The Naval Prefecture sources also confirmed that they have received precise instructions: "We must not provoke any type of incident."

These guidelines given by the Defense Ministry, which rule out the use of force, are in keeping with the strategy designed by the Argentine Foreign Ministry for the recovery of the Malvinas Islands.

Alfonsin, Martinez Discuss Issue

PY031548 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1346 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb (DYN) -- Vice President Victor Martinez today stated that "complete tranquillity prevails" in the South Atlantic and that the Argentine Government will maintain its "firm, steadfast" position of making "our sovereign rights over the Malvinas Islands respected." Martinez told newsmen that this morning he and President Raul Alfonsin discussed the latest reports on the situation in the fishing exclusion zone that has been put into force by Great Britain around the Malvinas Islands since 1 February. Martinez said that "patrols are being conducted, as planned," and that the objective is "to avoid any unexpected action that could be construed as belligerent or conflictive, because we believe that the Argentine claim must be addressed in international forums to pave the way for peace and dialogue." Martinez added that the Argentine actions are designed to preserve our sovereign rights "as well as our fishing resources and the economic development of the zone."

Situation Termed Normal

PY031612 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1416 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb (NA) -- A spokesman for the Argentine Naval Prefecture has reported that the British forces stationed on the Malvinas Islands are following the movements of the Argentine Coast Guard vessels and reconnaissance aircraft that are patrolling the boundaries of the British exclusion by satellite. He added that so far the British have not deployed any military ships or Air Force squadrons.

The Argentine Coast Guard vessels have spotted at least 50 Spanish and Japanese ships, many of them large factory ships, operating in an area between the mainland coast and the boundaries of the exclusion zone and Staten Island, east of Tierra del Fuego. The source said that no ships have been harassed or captured, because "the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry have issued specific orders to avoid any type of incident."

Commenting on the British combat forces, the source said that "they are ready in their bases and they are following all our movements by satellite."

The Argentine Coast Guard vessel Prefecto Ficke GC 48, which is patrolling the area, will return to the mainland in 40 days, when it will probably be replaced by the Thompson, a sister ship. The sources added that the short Skyvan planes that have taken off from an airport in Patagonia have reported that "during their flights they have detected neither British Air Force planes nor warships." The last report received today at the Guardacostas building from the area that the prefecture personnel have christened "hot" states that "everything is proceeding normally and without incident.

Alfonsin, Thatcher Meeting Denied

PY032330 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2241 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb (NA) -- Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez today officially stated that the Argentine Government "knows absolutely nothing" about a possible meeting between President Raul Alfonsin and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that would take place before the elections.

"I don't know anything about it," said Lopez when NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS asked him about a leak that the magazine SOMOS published today. According to this weekly, high-ranking government officials are studying the feasibility of a meeting between Raul Alfonsin and Thatcher "before 8 November," the date set for elections.

The leak resurrected a comment -- which had been labeled an "assumption" -- the London newspaper SUNDAY TIMES published at the end of last year. Accordng to this commentary, one of the major events of 1987 could be a meeting between Argentine and British leaders. Relations between the two countries have been broken since the 1982 war.

Groups Seek Government Action

PY031208 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Feb (NA) -- The relatives of Army conscripts have called for a rally in front of Government House on 12 February to demand the "immediate discharge" of the conscripts born in 1967. The discharge of this class of conscripts was suspended in the wake of the British decision to impose an economic exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands.

On the day of their rally, the relatives of soldiers now on active duty will deliver a third petition to President Raul Alfonsin for their "immediate discharge," which was suspended last November by a Military Committee decision.

The group that has called the rally has issued a communique denouncing "the discriminatory attitude of the government," which 2 months after the presentation of two petitions bearing 5,000 signatures each and requests to see President Alfonsin and the defense minister "has not provided answers to our concerns."

The communique states that the government "gave different treatment to the 'Full Stop,' which was approved quickly." It also points out that "the worn out argument of a hypothetical conflict cannot stand up to scrutiny, because the lesson was in vain if the Argentines have learned nothing from the Malvinas experience."

Meanwhile, the Rosario Operation Foundation and the League of Malvinas and South Atlantic Islands Combatants have warned the government "to refrain from responding with arms" to the British decision to expand, beginning tomorrow, the economic protection zone around the Malvinas, "because our forces are materially and morally exhausted" as a consequence of "the naive official defense policy."

In a communique, the Center of Former Malvinas Combatants of the federal capital says that the UK decision and the militarization of the archipelago stand as "a denial of the statements by President Raul Alfonsin and British Foreign Secretary Howe belittling the strategic importance" of the islands.

Nationalist and veterans organizations have demanded that the government stop debt payments to British banks and that "British capital in Argentina be confiscated."

The Rosario Operation Foundation and the League of Malvinas and South Atlantic Islands Combatants have also said that "if Great Britain continues its pretentions, we demand that the national government suspend payments to British banks and to banks headquartered in Great Britain, and that British properties in this country be gradually confiscated."

They then note that an armed reaction by the Argentine Armed Forces "will be simply suicidal and, furthermore, Great Britain can fabricate an incident with Chile for us, thus endangering Patagonia."

DEFENSE MINISTER JAUNARENA LEAVES FOR ITALY

PY030051 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2040 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Feb (NA) -- At the invitation of the Italian Government, Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena traveled to Rome this afternoon to discuss bilateral agreements and, particularly, to sign an agreement for the joint manufacture of airplane, helicopter, and radar parts. Aeritalia and the Area Material Cordoba plant will participate in the joint venture.

Minister Jaunarena left the Ezeiza International Airport at 1700, accompanied by the Air Force General Staff Chief Brigadier Ernesto Crespo, and Brigadier Carlos Corradetti, commander of the Aeronautics material. None of the officials made any statements before leaving.

On 3 February, Jaunarena will meet with Giovanni Spadolini, his Italian counterpart, to put the final touches on the agreement between Aeritalia and Area Material Cordoba. The two officials will sign the agreement next weekend.

Spokesmen for the delegation emphasized the importance of the meeting because there is a possibility that Argentina may manufacture the Aermacchi fighter bomber used by the Italian Navy.

The agreement will also include spare parts for airplanes, helicopters, and especially for radar.

The Defense Ministry stated that the minister's visit to Italy will serve "to strengthen relations and the studies for future bilateral agreements."

The agreements with Aeritalia are based on negotiations conducted by Minister Spadolini during his September 1985 visit and on the September 1986 meeting between Dante Caputo and Giulio Andreotti.

The Italian company has offered to provide capital and technology to the company in charge of the activities of Area Material Cordoba (the former Military Airplane Factory).

GARRET ON ANDEAN DRUG MEETING, NEW DRUG LAW

PY032149 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] The drug trafficking problem has created a great deal of concern recently. Because the Bolivian Government cannot confront this illegal activity alone, Vice President Julio Garret Ayllon has announced an important initiative.

Vice President Garret Ayllon has announced that in the next few days the Andean Parliament will meet in Lima to coordinate actions to fight drug trafficking. He added that the Andean Pact representatives are going to study the possibility of making anti-drug-trafficking regulations more uniform in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

Garret also expressed confidence that this session of the Bolivian Congress will approve the law for the control of dangerous substances. Garret added that Congress has the moral obligation to approve the law and that the legislative branch has to declare [words indistinct].

The importance the new law will have for the country cannot be denied because the new law is aimed at filling a large vacuum that has reduced the effectiveness of the government's struggle against this illegal activity. The Foreign Ministry has recently made moves to get the White House to provide more appropriate economic aid for the struggle against drug trafficking. Bolivia is willing to continue with this struggle, but hopes that the contries affected by drug addiction will also provide economic aid for this noble goal.

BRIEFS

UMOPAR SEIZES COCAINE -- The Mobile Units for Rural Areas [UMOPAR] forces have caputured 58.6 kg of cocaine sulphate during its latest operations in the Chapare region. It was reported that 2 kg of cocaine sulphate were seized in Eterazama; 3 cocaine laboratories were destroyed in Villa Tunari together with 2 kg of cocaine sulphate; 2 kg of cocaine sulphate were seized in Senda Tres; Teofilo Velasco Choque was arrested in La Paz with 1 kg of cocaine base. Meanwhile 3.9 kg of cocaine base were burned in Santa Cruz in the presence of the local prosecutor. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 1 Jan 87 p 9 PY]

1986 IMPORTS, EXPORTS -- According to the Central Bank President's office, during 1986, imports totaled $913 million and exports totaled $792 million. No figures were supplied concerning volumes. [Excerpts] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Jan 87 p 11 PY]

FOREIGN DEBT FIGURES RELEASED -- Central Bank President Javier Nogales has reported that during 1986 Bolivia was granted $306.2 million in loans and that it paid $234 million to service its debt. The economic study section of the Central Bank has reported that on 31 March 1986 the Bolivian foreign debt stood at $5,023,000,000. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 6 Jan 87 p 1 PY]

USSR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KOMPLEKTOV ARRIVES

PY031350 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Viktor Komplektov arrived in Brazil yesterday. He came to establish the date for the visit of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, scheduled for this year.

In his meeting with Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre, Komplektov will discuss the implementation of measures adopted by the United Nations and the creation of an international peace and cooperation zone in the South Atlantic.

Holds Talks at Foreign Ministry

PY031737 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1618 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Brasilia, 3 Feb (EFE) -- Soviet Deputy Foreign Miniter Viktor Komplektov begins a 2-day official visit to Brazil today. He will discuss subjects such as the Central American situation, the economic crisis, and the arms race with the Brazilian Government.

Komplektov arrived in Brasillia last night from Rio de Janeiro. His first official act was to meet with Secretary General of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry (deputy minister) Pablo Tarso Flecha da Lima.

Ruy Nogueira, the special spokesman at Itamaraty Palace -- the Foreign Ministry Palace -- stated that the date for the visit Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will make to Brazil will be set during Komplektov's meeting with Abreu Sodre.

"The Brazilian Government wants this visit to take place as soon as possible, this year," Nogueira stated.

Shevardnadze has been invited to visit Brazil in the second half of this year.

Komplektov will remain in Brasilia until tomorrow when he will return to Rio de Janeiro. There he will leave for Montevideo, and later for Mexico, according to the report released by the Soviet Embassy.

NORDIC STATES PROVIDE $50-MILLION LOAN

PY031354 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] The Nordic Fund, comprised of banks from countries including Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland, has granted a $50-million loan to Brazil. The country has not received any money from abroad since 1982, and this fund will be used in government projects in the electricity sector, especially for the construction of energy transmission lines from Itaipu to the southeastern region. Another line will link the northeast to the north. This fund will also serve to set up a natural gas distribution system.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, CONGRESS TO WORK IN TANDEM

PY040243 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Feb 87 p 1

[Excerpt] The proposal that the Constituent Assembly should function alone, with Congress going into recess, was buried yesterday morning by Deputy Humberto Soto (Liberal Front Party from Minas Gerais), the vice president of the Chamber of Deputies who is also its acting president. Giving in to pressures from the federal government and to behind-the-scene maneuvers that ended at 0330 [0530 GMT] this morning, Deputy Soto decided to proceed with the election of the Chamber of Deputies executive board and to inform the Constituent Assembly of the form in which the three bodies -- Constituent Assembly, Chamber of Deputies, and Senate -- will function simultaneously.

The PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] bloc (absolute majority with 260 deputies), which last Friday had proposed that the Constituent Assembly function alone, was pressured to accept a compromise formula. The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate will only meet to consider the most pressing matters. As a result, the Constituent Assembly will have preference to its debates, but it cannot govern through constitutional acts, as was feared by the government, the PFL [Liberal Front Party], and PMDB moderates. [passage omitted]

COCAINE FACTORY FOUND ON FORMER DEPUTY'S LAND

PY032323 Rio de Janeiro Rede Global Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Another cocaine laboratory has been discovered in Manaus. The Federal Police closed a laboratory that was operating at km 52 on the road linking Manaus with Itaquatiara.

The property belongs to former Deputy Armando Freitas of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] who denied any links any connection with the case. A member of the civilian police force, Alfonso Ferreira Lopes, who was carrying 6.5 kg of pure cocaine was arrested.

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZED AT AIRPORT -- The police have discovered a large quantity of equipment and chemicals to produce cocaine at a farm in Mage, 30 km from Rio de Janeiro. This material would have been used in a laboratory to produce 100 kilograms of cocaine per month. Referring to another case, the police today exhibited 32.5 kilograms of cocaine that were seized at the Rio de Janeiro international airport. The cocaine was packed in shoe boxes that were being shipped to Miami. The boxes bear the label of the Austraus International Transport Company from Rio Grande do Sul, with branches in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Miami. The pure cocaine is worth 75 million cruzados, but it can make up to five times that amount in the retail market. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro GLOBO Television Network in Portuguese 2155 GMT 28 Jan 87 PY]

UK ISSUES FALKLANDS COMMUNIQUE IN SANTIAGO

PY302335 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] The temporary zone of conservation and administration around the Falkland or Malvinas Islands will become effective on 1 February in order to properly preserve the species in those waters.

This announcement was made in a press communique released in Santiago by the British Embassy. The measure had been announced by British Foreign Minister Geoffrey Howe on 29 October 1986.

The establishment of this zone will be temporarily in effect until there is a multilateral fishing restriction agreement sponsored by the FAO. The restricted area, which was established in accordance with the international laws, has a radius of 150 nautical miles and will be patrolled by an airplane and two civilian ships to protect fish resources.

INCOMMUNICADO STATUS LIFTED, REIMPOSED IN ARMS CASE

Judge Lifts Status

PY022343 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] Trial Judge Fernando Torres Silva has lifted the incommunicado status of the five individuals charged with being the leaders of the operation to illegally introduce arms into the country. They are Sergio (Buchman) Silva, Claudio Molina Donoso, Jose Nunez Toro, Victor Molina Donoso, and Alfredo (Malta Ispaltren), who were held incommunicado for 10 days following the introduction of new evidence during the investigations.

The measure was adopted by the judge last Saturday following his return to Santiago from his trip to the third and fourth regions to conduct procedures related to the arms caches case.

Reverses Decision

PY040207 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2200 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Military prosecutor Fernando Torres Silva has reimposed the incommunicado status of the five individuals who are charged with being responsible for the illegal introduction of arms into the country. The defendants' lawyer, Carlos Margota, reported that the resolution reimposing the measure is dated 28 January, and will be in effect until tomorrow, Wednesday.

The individuals so affected are: Claudio Molina Donoso, Sergio (Buchman) Silva, Alfredo (Malbridge Baltra), Victor Molina Donoso, and Jose Moya Toro [name as heard]. The defense lawyer explained that prosecutor Torres Silva based the adoption of the measure on the fact that new evidence has been introduced in the investigations that began in August.

Last week the prosecutor visited Chanaral and Carrizal Bajo, in the Third Region, where most of the arms caches were found. After traveling north, Torres Silva placed the five indictees under incommunicado status. He lifted that status after his trip. Hours later, lawyer Marcota said, the judge reimposed the measure.

The defense lawyer contends that prosecutor Torres silva is acting illegally, because his decision is nothing more than a reprisal for the defendants' refusal to answer questions during interrogations. (Malbridge Baltra), Moya, Toro, and the brothers Molina Donoso have publicly declared that they are members of the FPMR [Manuel rodriguez Patriotic Front] and that they do not recognize the moral right of the military court to prosecute them.

In turn, their defense lawyers said that the refusal to answer questions cannot be punished, because it is a right to which any indictee is entitled. This argument is part of a complaint appeal filed against the military prosecutor Torres Silva with the Martial Court.

PRO-GOVERNMENT RIGHTIST PARTIES FORM COALITION

PY300305 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1446 GMT 25 Jan 87

[Text] Santiago, 25 Jan (EFE) -- The Independent Democratic Union [UDI] has announced that it will merge with the National Union [UN] to form a single rightist party.

In a statement released today, the UDI, which supports the military government, stated that after careful consideration of a UN proposal, the UDI Political Committee decided to support the initiative and suggested a merger "without further delay."

On 8 January, UN President Andres Allamand addressed a message to the UDI, the National Labor Front, National Party, and the sectors that support the right. In his message, Allamand called for the creation of a single rightist party.

Neither the National Labor Front nor the National Party has given an answer yet.

WUCD'S ZALDIVAR WILLING TO LEAD OPPOSITION

PY022254 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0149 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 1 Feb (EFE) -- Andres Zaldivar, former Chilean senator and former president of the World Union of Christian Democrats [WUCD], today expressed his willingness to assume the leadership of the democratic opposition against the military regime.

In an interview he granted to the newspaper LAS ULTIMAS NOTICIAS published in today's edition, Zaldivar said that "I am not presumptuous, I know that there are many courageous leaders, but I want to make it perfectly clear that if I am called upon, I will be willing to fight with the political realism with which I view things."

The WUCD leader said that "however, if another person is chosen, I will join his ranks if there is an awareness of the true objective behind all this: to change all the foolish laws and to restore democracy."

Zaldivar said that the present concern, even among government people, is "whether or not democracy will be restored in the country; whether or not the system of coexistence that Chile has enjoyed throughout its history will be restored." Zaldivar believes that Chile is confronting a dramatic situation because there are no signs that national sectors will achieve a reconciliation and "because General (Augusto) Pinochet has decided to stay in power beyond 1989."

The former senator said that there must be a true dialogue with Chileans so as to be able "to negotiate a solution that will encompass a revision of the Constitution and the amendment of the electoral and political parties laws."

Regarding the inclusion of the Communist Party [PC] in a possible future dialogue, Zaldivar said that he believes that it is impossible for the Armed Forces and the PC to sit down at the negotiating table, and that "the PC knows this." Zaldivar added that only those parties between the Nunez faction of the Socialist Party and the right will be able to sit at the negotiating table.

However, he explained, "it is not my intention to exclude anyone from democracy. I do not want to violate anyone's rights, including Pinochet's or the Marxists'. However, if we are to be realistic, we cannot allow the PC to participate in the negotiations, because we will never be able to achieve results if this happens."

MDP LEADER SENTENCED FOR OFFENDING PINOCHET

PY010023 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2236 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] Santiago, 30 Jan (EFE) -- Chilean politician Ociel Nunez, leader of the Popular Democratic Movement (MDP) -- a coalition of Marxist parties -- was sentenced to two 541-day jail terms, because of an article.

The sentence was handed down by the Santiago Appellate Court, on the basis of an article which Nunez published in the "Fortin Mapocho" newspaper.

The opposition leader was found guilty of "instigating indiscipline and disobedience among the members of the Armed Forces," and of "offending the president of the republic."

ANALISIS DIRECTOR APPEALS 3-YEAR SENTENCE

PY310055 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] Juan Pablo Cardenas, the director of the magazine ANALISIS, has appealled a ruling that he must serve 3 years of night confinement.

Juan Pablo Cardenas himself went to the Santiago Appellate Court to present his objection to the lower court ruling.

The ruling was handed down by trial Judge Leonel Beraud, who charged the journalist with slandering the president of the Republic.

Cardenas' accountability is based on the fact that he is the director of the magazine and that he wrote the articles containing the statements that violated the state security law.

Juan Pablo Cardenas prepared the paperwork at the apellate court, along with his attorney, Guillermo (De la Jara), who believes that the situation of the director of ANALISIS may be reviewed over the next few days by one of the special courts that operates during vacation season.

Judge Beraud refused to grant Cardenas authorization to leave the country to honor an invitation from the French Senate. The reason for the refusal is that the journalist is a defendant released on bail.

GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZES RETURN OF 37 EXILES

PY301732 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Relay from La Moneda Palace]

[Text] The Interior Ministry has just released a new list of people who are allowed to return to Chile. The authorization is in effect now.

The list includes 37 people. Some of them are: Patricio (Arancera) Vergara, Pedro Aguirre Gonzalez, Francisco (Barraquina) Navarro, Armando Barrientos Cardenas, Jorge Duarte Rivas, Juan Alberto (Turney) Sepulveda, Luis Alberto Huerta Martinez, Rosa Inez Labarca Olmos, Orlando Alfonso Mella Valenzuela, Mario Luis Meza Silva, Rolando Miranda Pinto, Walter Osvaldo Moreno (Cera), Hector Gerardo Naranjo Sandoval, Laura Eduvina Rodriguez Jorgera, Victor (Pretos) Vergara, Oscar Sabioncello Ravanales, Jaime Rodrigo Valenzuela Gonzalez and Valentina Segundo (Catrila).

As we said the list includes 37 people whose background has been evaluated by the Interior Ministry in accordance with the precise instruction of the president.

GOVERNMENT EXPLAINS RECENT DISMISSAL OF TEACHERS

PY311831 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] The Education Ministry has reasserted that teachers without university degrees are being fired in keeping with the law. The Education Ministry has stated that these firings are not the result of the enforcement of the municipalization program [through which schools will be put under municipal management]. It added that those affected has 12 years to regularize their situation and to avoid being fired.

The Education Ministry has issued a communique in which it states that in an interview Education Minister Sergio Gaete said that teachers are being fired in keeping with a law that was passed before 1974. He said that the government had to choose between allowing teachers without university degrees to continue teaching or grant them a deadline so that those who lacked the university degrees had enough time to obtain one.

The deadline expired and was renewed twice and therefore it cannot be said that teachers are being fired because of the municipalization plan through which all schools will be placed under the management of the local municipalities. The teachers have known about the situation since before 1974, and only those who did not comply with the regulations of obtaining a university degree are being fired. The communique adds that the Education Ministry has been enforcing this regulation since 1981 and that only those who work for universities or establishments of higher education; for Defense Ministry educational institutes; for the Andres Bello Diplomatic Academy; in specific areas such as handicraft training centers and the like; and in vocational training areas at the high school, scientific, or technical educational levels can teach without having a university degree. [sentence as heard]

The main objective being sought through the modernization plan that is being implemented by the government is to improve the national educational sector. The authorities are promoting the decentralization of the education system, which for many years could not be reformed or modernized. It adds that the government-promoted municipalization process seeks to develop and improve the quality of the Chilean education system so as to increase the average education level of Chileans.

SALVADOR'S ACEVEDO ARRIVES; MEETS LONDONO, BARCO

PA031931 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta arrived yesterday in Bogota on an 8-day official visit, shortly after the conclusion of the tour of the Contadora and Support Groups through Central America. [Reporter] Pilar Calderon was present when Acevedo was greeted by Colombian officials at the airport.

[Calderon] Acevedo Peralta arrived at 2010 from Miami and held a news conference at the airport during which he explained the reason for his visit.

[Begin Acevedo recording] I have high hopes and feel very optimistic that this meeting on the eve of the one we are going to hold in Costa Rica with President Arias will bring very good prospects to achieving peace soon in Central America within the Contadora context, in which Colombia plays an extremely important role. [end recording]

[Calderon] Acevedo's visit is taking place at a time when his country is plagued by a civil war that has lasted over 7 years.

[Begin Acevedo recording] We have held a very fruitful third round of talks through which we obtained the release of a military man who was kidnapped and at the same time released several political prisoners who were being held by the government forces. At the same time, in a humanitarian action [end recording in mid-sentence]

[Calderon] Although our cameramen were unable to continue filming the interview with the Salvadoran foreign minister because of power problems at the airport's VIP room, Acevedo said in statements to other newsmen that there are approximately 200 political prisoners in his country at this moment and that, situation permitting, the prisoner exchanges between the government and the guerrillas will continue like yesterday, when General [title as heard] Omar Avalos was exchanged for 50 political prisoners held by the government.

The foreign minister denied, however, any possibility of meeting with Salvadoran guerrilla leader Ruben Zamora, who is in Bogota waiting to meet with Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes. Acevedo talked with his Colombian colleague in the morning and is meeting at this moment with President Barco.

MINISTER DENIES HIRING ISRAELI DEFENSE AIDE

TA311844 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] The Colombian interior minister [title as heard] has denied reports that his government has hired the services of Rafi Eytan of Israel to serve as a defense affairs adviser. At one time, Rafi Eytan was the prime minister's antiterrorism adviser and is currently chairman of an Israeli chemical company. The Colombian interior minister, Fernando Cepeda, told Bogota's EL TIEMPO that his government did not hire the services of the Israeli specialist. He refused to elaborate.

ECUADORAN FISHING BOAT, CREW DETAINED

PA301618 Paris AFP in Spanish 0733 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] Buenaventura, Colombia, 29 Jan (AFP) -- Port authorities here have reported that an Ecuadoran fishing boat was captured today in Colombian waters in the Pacific. Navy Lieutenant Carlos Castillo said that the vessel, which was identified as the Cirius, and under the command of Captain Luis Correa, was sighted by a Colombian Navy patrol corvette 25 miles inside the territorial limit.

The Cirius is a training vessel for fishermen. Its crew is made up of 10 sailors, 16 students, and 6 professional fishermen.

All crew members are under the custody of the Colombian authorities, while the necessary diplomatic contacts are being made to return them to their country of origin.

BARCO CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY IN NARCOTICS BATTLE

PA301601 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] Colombia has demanded solidarity from the international community in defeating narcotics trafficking, and has urged the countries where drugs are consumed to adopt a courageous attitude against this scourge. President Virgilio Barco availed himself of a New Year's reception with the diplomatic corps to warn that so long as some countries permit their territory to be used to host financial and banking institutions that accept monies stained with blood as a result of criminal actions, it is very difficult to wage a battle against drug trafficking.

This reaction by President Barco was preceded by a very emphatic statement by U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Charles Gillespie, who praised the Colombian stand on narcotics traffic and the attitude of courageous men such as the [Colombian] Ambassador to Hungary, Enrique Parejo Gonzalez, who will chair the Vienna UN Conference on Drug Trafficking.

President Barco reminded the accredited ambassadors in Colombia that our country has sacrificed enough with the deaths of magistrates, newsmen, militarymen, diplomats, and ministers. He said they were good people who did not yield to terror and threats and that this terrible struggle should not be waged in and restricted to our own territory alone.

DRUG CHIEF RELEASED FOR 'LACK OF EVIDENCE'

PA211951 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1457 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Bogota, 20 Jan (DPA) -- It was reported here today that Ana Rodriguez de Tamayo, a Colombian, considered one of the top drug trafficking chiefs in the country, has been released for "lack of evidence." Rodriguez de Tamayo was captured 10 days ago in Cartagena through a constitutional provision that allows the government to detain people without making specific judicial charges against them.

After the 10-day detention period was up, the alleged drug trafficker was released as no specific charges were brought against her. Other people considered to be Mafia capos, who were arrested recently, have already been released. Such is the case of the brothers Gabriel and Franklin O'Byrne Aicardi, and Efrain Rodriguez Puente. [passage omitted]

STROESSNER ARRIVES ON PRIVATE VISIT TO BRAZIL

PY292010 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1820 GMT 29 Jan 87

[Text] Brasilia, 29 Jan (EFE) -- Paraguayan diplomatic sources in Brasilia have confirmed that Paraguayan President General Alfredo Stroessner today arrived in the Brazilian city of Paranagua on a private visit.

Stroessner, 71, arrived at 1300 in Paranagua and immediately went to his private residence in Guaratuba Beach where he met with Paraguayan consular officials and officials from the [Paranagua] Free Port.

The sources, who asked to remain anonymous, said they have no information on when the Paraguayan president will return to Asuncion.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry described Gen Stroessner's trip to the port of Paranagua as routine.

The Paraguayan president's trip to Brazil coincides with a visit by General John Galvin, of the U.S. Southern Command, headquartered in Panama, to Paraguay at a time when relations between Paraguay and the United States are going through a critical period.

Not Shown Upon Return

PY040133 Asuncion Red Privada de Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Off-camera announcer reads report while clip shows Lineas Aereas Paraguayas (LAP) plane taxiing down runway; many parked vehicles and people standing are shown along runway; President Stroessner is not shown -- recorded]

[Text] Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner returned this afternoon from Brazil, ending a visit he began on 29 January. His Excellency, the president of the nation, returned from Parana State on board a special LAP flight.

The plane touched down at 1445 local time [1745 GMT]. Awaiting the president at the VIP hall were Cesar Barrientos, retired quartermaster general and minister of finance who was left in charge of the presidential office; Dr Luis Maria Argana, president of the Supreme Court of Justice; members of the cabinet; Major General Alejandro Fretes Davalos, chief of Armed Forces General Staff; Brigadier General Francisco Ruiz Diaz, deputy chief of the Armed Forces General Staff; and members of the military and civilian households.

The president of the nation resumed his office immediately upon arrival.

Papers Carry No Pictures

PY041304 [Editorial Report] Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner returned to the country on 3 February after a 6-day private visit to Parana State, Brazil.

Asuncion morning newspapers on 4 February carry front-page headlines and reports on inside pages announcing the president's return. None of them, however, publish pictures of the president's arrival.

Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish on pp 1, 13 reports that "at 1455 President Stroessner exited the LAP plane that brought him back from Curitiba. As he descended from the plane, he waved his hat to the local officials who went to the airport to welcome him." The 500-word report adds that during his visit, Stroessner met with Parana State Governor Elizio de Farraz, and visited the duty-free port of Paranagua on the Atlantic Ocean.

Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish on page 1 carries a 150-word report on the president's return, noting that "the chief of state had gone to Guaratuba on 29 January, on a private visit, along with aides and friends." The report concludes by announcing that "the president immediately resumed his duties and this morning will report to his office at the Lopez Palace."

Asuncion HOY in Spanish on pp 1, 11 carries a 300-word report noting that "President Alfredo Stroessner returned yesterday from Guaratuba, where he spent a brief vacation." The report adds that "the Paraguayan president thus ended a 5-day rest period in Guaratuba, a resort city in Parana State located on the Atlantic." It also notes that during his stay in Guaratuba, the president stayed "at the residence of some friends."

POLICE CALL STRING OF ATTACKS 'UNPRECEDENTED'

PY031904 Paris AFP in Spanish 1909 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Lima, 2 Feb (AFP) -- The Peruvian police antiterrorist unit has reported that, amid false reports of bomb attacks, the Maoist Shining Path guerrillas today flooded Lima with posters threatening to finish off the great leap with a golden hallmark [rematar el gran salto con un sello de oro]. According to eyewitnesses, the posters were pasted up in shantytowns, on several avenues in Lima, and on the Via Expresa, Lima's main freeway.

Simultaneously, the offices of the deputy commerce minister and a bank in downtown Lima received telephone calls from people identifying themselves as Shining Path combatants, announcing that bombs would go off at those sites. Police bomb squad experts, however, have reported after inspecting the offices that they did not find any dynamite sticks or anything of the sort.

The authorities attributed the Shining Path propaganda campaign to a new method of that guerrilla organization to draw attention after it unleashed an unprecedented terrorist offensive over the past few weeks, including blackouts, attacks, killings, and the occupation of two news agencies. [passage omitted]

Police statistics published today by the magazine CARETAS indicate that the terrorist actions, which already have taken a toll of 9,000 deaths in the more than 7 years of subversion, have increased 65.3 percent from 1985 to 1986 under the Garcia administration.

CARETAS reports that from 1985 to 1986, 94 bank offices, 64 political party offices, 53 stores, 29 government offices, 23 high-voltage power pylons, 19 houses of politicians, 16 movie theaters, and 15 embassies were the target of terrorist attacks.

The authorities believe that today's posters and the recent occupation of the British REUTERS news agency and the Cuban PRENSA LATINA news agency in downtown Lima are actions that the fanatical followers of Abimael Guzman, the self-proclaimed Shining Path leader, are perpetrating for the first time.

Police experts and experts in Shining Path activities attribute these acts to a possible new Shining Path strategy of conducting this propaganda campaign when it is about to radicalize its guerrilla warfare.

SHINING PATH RAIDS TOWNS IN CUSCO, AYACUCHO

PY022125 Paris AFP in Spanish 1949 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] Lima, 31 Jan (AFP) -- Government circles today reported in Lima that alleged Shining Path columns raided several towns in Ayacucho and Cusco killing at least eight people, wounding two army soldiers, a civil guard corporal, and causing considerable damage.

A heavily-armed Shining Path commando group on 28 January raided the town of Panti, located some 115 km northeast of Ayacucho, the bastion of Andean guerrillas. According to a local inhabitant guerrillas killed three peasants and two women. Panti was the target of a guerrilla attack in October 1985.

About 15 terrorists on 30 January raided the town of Tiquihua, located in the Victor Fajardo Province, 135 km south of Ayacucho. The terrorist group broke into the local emergency clinic [posta] and took equipment and medicines. The person in charge of the clinic, whose identity was not disclosed, had abandoned the site and left for Ayacucho because he had received death threats.

A few days ago, three workers were killed in Ayacucho when terrorists blew up an electricity plant which was under construction.

Two days ago, two army soldiers were seriously injured in a clash between followers of Abimael Guzman, alias Comrade Gonzalo, and a military patrol. The incident occurred in the town of Acos-Vinchos. The two wounded soldiers, who today were brought to Lima from Ayacucho, have been hospitalized at the local Military Hospital amid complete silence on the part of military authorities about the clash.

Corporal Adolfo Flores was seriously wounded in an attack yesterday by a terrorist group on a police post in the town of Descanso, in Canas Province in Cusco Department.

It seems that yesterday another Shining Path commando attacked the capital of Canas Province, Yanaoca, located 200 km to the south; and in the nearby town of Quehue, there was a shootout with police forces, however, there were no official reports issued about the incident.

Julio Jara, the prefect of Cusco, located 1,165 km southeast of Lima, has said that the forces of order are under red alert in the high provinces where subversive groups raid towns, steal cattle and kill peasants.

FLOODS LEAVE 400 MISSING, 100 DEAD IN PASCO

PY031426 Paris AFP in Spanish 1257 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Lima, 3 Feb (AFP) -- Rear Admiral Jorge del Aguila Sanchez, chief of the national Civil Defense Board, today reported that thus far 400 people are missing, more than 100 have died, and thousands have been left homeless in the wake of the floods that are devastating Villa Rica, some 320 kilometers northeast of Lima, and several towns in the jungles of the Peruvian central region.

A Hercules plane and an Air Force helicopter this morning flew to the Andean town of Jauja, 266 kilometers east of Lima, from where the rescue teams will try to set up an air bridge to help the disaster zone, he added.

On 1 February, Villa Rica was devastated by an avalanche of mud, stones, and water up to 3 meters high, as nearby rivers overflowed following the torrential rains in that region of Pasco Department.

REPORT PRAISES NATION'S AGRICULTURAL GROWTH

PY261818 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 26 Jan 87

[From the "Panorama" program conducted by Roxana Canedo]

[Text] We begin our first program of 1987 by commenting on what could be the most important achievement in the last few years in the agriculture sector. The most important Peruvian newspapers, and even the prestigious newspaper THE ANDEAN REPORT, today praised the growth that the Peruvian agricultural sector experienced in 1986.

These reports state, for example, that real income in the agricultural sector increased by 25 percent, and that the annual growth rate in the sector, which was about 3.6 percent, is 3 times higher than the average annual growth rate that the agricultural sector experienced during the last 25 years.

A record 1,451,000 hectares was cultivated in 1986, while agricultural production totaled a record 568 million intis.

During 1986, Peru harvested 626,000 tons of corn, 110,000 tons of wheat, 52,000 tons of mixed vegetables, and 250,000 tons of rice.

In the livestock sector, 1986 was a record year for poultry production, which totaled 14 million units per month and yielded an average of 140 billion eggs per month. Demand for agricultural products increased by 25 percent, this reactivation is due to a 120-percent producer price increase and a 60-percent consumer price increase.

In view of these figures, 1987 should be the year of economic reactivation.

GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE URANIUM EXPLOITATION

PY202112 Paris AFP in Spanish 0207 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Lima, 19 Jan (AFP) -- Guillermo Flores, chairman of the Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy [IPEN], reported today in Lima that Peru will soon become the largest uranium producer in the world, if a project to locate some 10,000 tons of that element is carried out. This will generate revenues of some $500 million.

It has been confirmed that there are rich uranium deposits that will guarantee important economic resources for our country, Flores stated after signing an agreement with the Geological, Mining, and Metallurgical Institute [Instituto Geologico, Minero y Metalurgico -- Ingement] to set up the uranium mining zone of Macusani, Puno, in the southeastern Andean region.

The overall exploration program will last 2 years, with an investment of $5 million. Its purpose is to locate some 10,000 tons of uranium which, under the current depressed market conditions, would have a gross value of $500 million.

Remarking that in Latin America, only Argentina and Brazil have uranium in small amounts, Flores stated that 55 potential uranium deposits and 46 radioactive anomalies have been located in a 600-square-km area in the southeastern Andean region. He added that the Huarangal Nuclear Research Center of Peru is scheduled to be dedicated in July 1987. This nuclear center is located near Lima, and was built with the help of Argentina.

PETRICIOLI MEETS WITH BANK REPRESENTATIVES

FL310408 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0319 31 Jan 87

[By correspondent Roberto Gonzalez Perez]

[Excerpts] New York, 30 Jan, (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Finance Secretary Gustavo Petricioli met today with representatives of the most important international banks and briefed them on the behavior of his country's economy in the last few months.

During his brief visit, Petricioli was assured by the bankers that a $7.7 billion credit package the Mexican Government had requested from the commercial banks to cover its 1986-1987 financial needs will be signed during the last week of February at the latest.

It was reported that the Mexican official met individually with representatives of Citibank, Chase Manhattan Bank, Morgan Guarantee Trust, Manufacturer Hannover Trust, Bank of America, and Chemical Bank, among other financial institutions.

The spokesman for the committee representing 134 international banks, which is in charge of negotiating with Mexico, said the meetings Petricioli conducted were informational. Details of the secretary's conversations were not given.

The Mexican official was accompanied by Jose Angel Gurria, director of public credit of the Finance Secretariat, Enrique Bagmeister and Enrique Castro Tapia, representatives of the secretariat in New York.

At the time of the official's arrival, Citibank announced its decision to defer for 3 months the $500 million payment the Mexican Government was supposed to complete today as part of a bridge credit amounting to $1.6 million granted last year.

Citibank, which organized over 50 international banks to provide those $500 million, assured that the aim of the deferral is to give the Mexican Government enough time to complete negotiating the $7.7 billion package. [passage omitted]

Shortly before traveling to New York, the Mexican finance secretary also met with officials of the U.S. Federal Reserve, Treasury Department, IMF, and the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

Discusses Credit Package

FL031247 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2131 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- By the end of this month, Mexico will receive the $13.7 billion credit package the federal government requested from international banks, said Gustavo Petricioli, Mexican finance and public credit secretary.

Interviewed at the Mexico City airport upon his arrival from New York, the finance secretary explained that of the total sum, $7.7 billion comes from private international banks.

The resources the country will receive will be used to reactivate the economy, said Petricioli. He denied that this would liquidate debts. He said the credit package is not intended to affect Mexico's liquidity.

The official denied that his trip to New York was to hold negotiations, but, he said, it was intended to inform the international banks on Mexico's economic situation in 1986 and its programs for 1987.

He also denied that the resources are the result of the last binational Mexico-United States meeting since that meeting was at the governmental level to provide information and negotiate on world situation. The banks were not represented at this meeting, he said.

The finance secretary denied the possibility of reprivatizing the banking system since nationalization is an irreversible decision on the part of the Mexican Government.

He said the only thing that will happen is that 34 percent of the bank's shares will be sold to the public; however, no one will be able to hold more than 1 percent. In reference to capital flight, Petricioli said [words indistinct] a matter of choice and confidence on the part of those who deposited funds in U.S. banks. In addition, he said, it is necessary [words indistinct] the private initiative to get ahead. He added that all the money we can bring in for industrial reconversion is important.

Finally, he said there has to be mutual confidence between the public and private sectors and obstacles should not be created. Businessmen want to work, but we also want the proper conditions to foster investment and jobs.

MRP LEADER CONSIDERS GOALS OF NEW SOCIALIST PARTY

PA301544 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 26 Jan 87 p 4

[Article by Raul Correa E.]

[Excerpts] The new socialist party will attempt to turn the left into an alternative for Mexicans who are already tired of the PRI's absolutism. It will seek to install a new, popular, democratic regime that will pave the way for the development of socialism. It will not be Marxist-Leninist and will not seek to establish a dictatorship of the proletariat as a political system. These remarks were made by Carmelo Enriquez, an all but sure member of the collective directorate.

Carmelo Enriquez, the current national leader of the People's Revolutionary Movement (MRP), rebuffed comments that the new political organization will disappear after the 1988 elections. He said that although the elections are considered important, the new party's objective is to develop from an opposition force into a true alternative.

Enrique explained that the grass root members of the five political parties involved in the merger have not given their final word on the establishment of the new organization. If the project to unite the parties fails, the left will lose a great deal of credibility with the Mexican people and it would take a long time for such an organization to emerge as a true opposition force.

"We understand that internally and externally the project of unity will face difficulties, as at present there are those predicting the project will fail. That is precisely why we are playing it safe. We decided to set our ideological differences aside to build a party where a plurality of ideas, democracy, and liberty exit for the sake of changing the country's situation," he remarked.

He added that to date the delegates of the five parties have agreed that the new organization needs to strive to establish a multiparty entity where there is no single political organization. The experience of the current regime and that of other countries have shown this restricts democracy. The MRP leader said that the new party will be different from previous Mexican leftist organizations, where the tradition of internal differences and pluralistic and mature debate does not exist.

Regarding political ties, the new organization will have to maintain very close contacts with the people, Enriquez said. Among other things, it will have to change the traditional way of conducting politics, from the language employed to the very concept of what a political party's and the national project it seeks to build.

Carmelo Enriquez said that the MRP has decided that the new party should not be a party of cadres. Instead, it should be built on the diversity that exists in Mexico. "Mexico is a mosaic of cultures with varied regional development. The new party must take this into account so as not to fall into the trap of seeking to dictate unquestionable political policies from within," he noted. Moreover, he said that the Mexicans' genuine nationalism must be considered. "Although to Marxist-Leninists our nationalism would be a sin, it must be an important element of our organization," he added. [passage omitted]

Carmelo Enriquez also stated that the new party must break the left's Jacobinism. It must allow progressive religious sectors to participate freely and have the same rights and obligations as any other militant committed to the struggle of the people. [passage omitted]

NAVY SECRETARY ON MISSILES, BORDER WATCH

FL021854 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2016 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] Mexico City, 31 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Navy Secretary Miguel Angel Gomez Ortega has declared that it is not Mexico's fault tht missiles entered Mexican territory, because it was a mistake made in the United States. However, vigilance on the border and coast of Mexico will be increased to prevent this kind of incident.

Gomez Ortega pointed out that the 23 missiles erroneously included in a load of old wood sold by the U.S. military to a Mexican businessman are safe in a military zone of the border town of Ciudad Juarez.

Concerning who is responsible for this serious incident, he said that the matter is up to the United States to resolve. Who's responsible must be determined over there; no one in Mexico is to blame, he explained. He said that the Mexican Government has decided to reinforce vigilance on the coast and the borders to prevent incidents of this kind from happening again.

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZED -- In the Nuevo Leon towns of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, and Cadereyta, members of the Federal Judicial Police have confiscated 3.6 kg of pure cocaine and high-powered firearms, including an HK-308 submachinegun, a type used exclusively by the Mexican Army. In addition, the police have detained six people. [Summary] [Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 3 Feb 87 p 6 PA]

OFFICIAL DENIES COSTA RICAN BORDER CLOSED

PA040336 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] Deputy Commerce and Industry Minister Dorothy Sing has denied that the national government has closed the Paso Canoas border. Referring to the commission appointed by the executive branch to study the border problem she said:

[Begin recording] We plan to hold the first meeting tomorrow at 1000 and we hope to determine what the problems are at the border; and there are several problems. This commission plans to consolidate opinions and then hold a meeting with the Costa Rican commission to try to combine opinions which may not be the same because each nation is sovereign on its own territory.

[Reporter] Is it true that a few days ago the Panamanian Government ordered the border closed?

[Sing] That is absolutely false. The Panamanian Government has not ordered the border closed. What happened is that the Covernment... [corrects herself] not the Costa Rican Government but a civilian group has closed the Costa Rican border. [end recording]

'RELIABLE SOURCE' ON U.S. OFFICERS' COMMENTS

PA021944 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 2 Feb 87 pp 1, 2, 18

[Article by Norma Nunez Montoto]

[Excerpts] Panama City, Feb [no date as published] (ALASEI) [Agencia Latinoamericana de Servicios Especiales de Informacion] -- When asked by ALASEI, a highly reliable source said that two ranking U.S. Southern Command officers had stated "off the record" [preceding three words in English] that the United States is awaiting with skepticism the results of Panama's upcoming presidential elections. The United States has its sight set on a new "more pro-U.S." government and has taken for granted that there will be a greater rapprochement which will enable it to extend the presence of U.S. military bases in our country beyond the year 2000.

Colonel Neil Buttimer, chief of information of the Southern Command [title as published], and Colonel Robert Herrick, director of SWORD (Small Wars Operations Research Directorate) [title in English], said that the U.S. military presence in Panama has to be extended beyond 31 December 1999 (the date established in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties). They added that Panamanians have to understand that the U.S. presence in the country is no longer to defend the Canal exclusively. Instead, it is prompted by the geographical strategic role Panama and the sea waterway play in the Central American conflict." [quotation mark as published]

The stance adopted by these two Southern Command officers contrasts with public remarks by the commanders of the Southern Command and the Panamanian Defense Forces [FDP]. They spoke in favor of a harmonious deepening of Panama-U.S. relations in compliance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

Using a language which our informant considered "arrogant, offensive, debasing, and idiotic," Cols Buttimer and Herrick expressed their contempt for Panama. They stressed "Panamanians' unfitness to run the canal efficiently." The U.S. officers stressed their view by asking the visitor to look at "this filth, this...once belonged to us, and it is in their hands now." They were referring to some things that have been handed over to Panama such as the railroad. The United States handed the railroad over to Panama in a rundown condition because it failed to provide maintenance for it some years before Panama was to have received it.

The Panamanian Government feels that that joint military maneuvers with the U.S. Army, such as "Kindle Liberty-87," which is currently under way in western Chiriqui Province, constitute part of the process of regaining our sovereignty and a transfer of technologies. In addition, they ensure the safety of the canal, as was established in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. However, according to Cols Buttimer and Herrick, the maneuvers "are just to show our strength to our enemy." These members of the Southern Command felt that the "enemy" is Nicaragua because its "communist threat is growing in Central America owing to its support to rebel movements in that region."

Top-ranking FDP spokesmen commented on the "Kindle Liberty-87" maneuvers. They said that "there were great changes between these and the 'Bayan Tree' maneuvers conducted in 1958. At that time, U.S. troops trampled our soil and did not provide any services to the people or the opportunity to train Panamanian soldiers." [passage omitted]

SWORD, headed by Col Herrick, was recently created in the Southern Command. It is regarded as one of the CIA's newest structures [estructuras] in Latin America. Major General James Taylor is its chief executive. He is the commander of the 193d Infantry Brigade located on Fort Clayton in this capital.

The purpose of this office os to "provide strategic information to the commander of the Southern Command." Moreover, its chief duty is to "obtain precise data needed to improve the military capabilities of the United States and the Latin American security forces" in order "to detect, counter, and foil threats to security at the very beginning by gathering information and making the analysis necessary to establish the policy, training, and equipment needed in the Latin American milieu."

Despite the "stand by" [preceding two words in English] period while they wait for a new "more pro-U.S." government in Panama which would let them stay in this country, Herrick and Buttimer contradicted themselves in wishing the ALASEI informant a "happy trip wherever you go because any place is better than this f------ country."

BRIEFS

1986 ECONOMIC FIGURES -- Francisco Rodriguez, comptroller general of the republic, reported that the Panamanian economy grew 3 percent in 1986. This is the second consecutive year that the economy has grown after 2 years of stagnation, he said. "The comptroller's general's statistical office revealed that the construction, international trade, and utilities sectors were the most active, while the agricultural, livestock, and traditional export sectors were less active. [Summary] [Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jan 87 p 1-a PA]

BELIZE

SOLDIERS REPORTEDLY EVICT GUATEMALANS, SALVADORANS

PA022100 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 31 Jan 87 p 2

[Text] More than 200 Guatemalan citizens were outraged when they were evicted from that territory by Belizean soldiers, according to a report by Salvadoran citizens who were also outraged and evicted.

The sources said that 280 persons, including men, women, old people, and children were detained by black soldiers at several Belize communities and imprisoned for 4 days. The 280 were reportedly the object of physical insults and disparaging actions. After they were held for 4 days with scarcely any food, they were expelled to Guatemalan territory.

CENTRAL BANK REPORTS ON ECONOMIC SITUATION

FL031623 Bridgetown CANA in English 1311 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Feb 3, CANA -- Belize's foreign exchange reserves amounted to Bel 52.3 million dollars (one Bel dollar -- 50 cents U.S.) at the end of last year, the central bank reports.

The reserves totalled 44.8 million dollars at the end of November last year. A government source said the growth of government revenues was still sluggish and below expectations. The situation was expected to be exacerbated by last December's slash in Belize's 1987 sugar quota by United States.

By the end of December of 1986, the external public debt was roughly 204 million dollars. Most of this was owed to the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and the petroleum company of Mexico.

The domestic debt (treasury bills and loans from the Central Bank of Belize and the commercial banks) was reported at around 95 million dollars.

ESQUIVEL SAYS REDUCED SUGAR QUOTA UNDERMINES CBI

FL160108 Bridgetown CANA in English 2301 GMT 15 Jan 87

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Jan 15, CANA -- Belize Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel says the decision of the United States to slash the country's 1987 export quota for sugar undermines the trade-boosting objectives of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI). Speaking at a Rotary Club meeting in the Orange Walk District last night, he said the quota cuts were imposed by an election-conscious Congress, worried about the U.S. farm vote. For Belize at least, things will not turn out as bad as anticipated, he said. The U.S. sugar quota reduction will result in a loss of about U.S. 3 million dollars to the industry, (but) a third to a half of this amount is expected to be recovered by selling the sugar on the world market.

Esquivel said the increasing strength of the British pound and adjustments to the prices Belize receives from selling sugar to the European Community, should help make up the losses suffered by the U.S. quota cut.

The U.S. Congress, in a move to protect domestic producers, cut the export quotas of Belize and other Caribbean Community (CARICOM) sugar producers by 44 per cent this year.

Esquivel announced that facilities for the production of white sugar at a factory in Orange Walk were near completion and should be in operation by April. The plant will process some 3,000 tons of white sugar for the local market. This will keep up the prices of cane paid to farmers, he said.

Esquivel, continuing on the government's plans for the major foreign exchange earning industry, said a priority was the reopening of a factory for the production of ethanol in partnership with the state-owned Jamaica Oil Company, Petrojam. But he said negotiations on the project between the Belize Sugar Industry [BSI] and Petrojam were proceeding at a frustratingly slow pace. Government will not wait forever for a conclusion to the negotiations, he said. Responding today to the statement by the prime minister, Mikey Brownie, a senior BSI executive, said the negotiations were dragging on because of a degree of tolerance to protect our cane supply. We can't have Petrojam come into Belize and use up our supply and so this degree of tolerance is critical in our negotiation, he said.

Esquivel also announced that the U.S. Government has agreed to give Belize U.S. 3 million dollars worth of wheat to compensate for losses arising from the quota cuts. The money, he said, will be deposited in a special account and administered by the United States Agency for International Development to fund development projects in the sugar-growing north of the country.

COUNTRY TO PULL OUT OF W.I. SHIPPING COMPANY

FL031315 Bridgetown CANA in English 2039 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Feb 2, CANA -- Belize has become the third Caribbean Community (Caricom) country to announce a planned withdrawal from the financially-strapped West Indies Shipping Corporation (WISCO). Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel told reporters that after a one-sided relationship with WISCO, Belize is about to cut her losses and say good-bye to the regional shipping line owned by Caricom governments. He said last Wednesday government had instructed its minister of trade, Eduardo Juan, to notify Caribbean trade ministers of this decision when they meet this month to discuss West Indian shipping. The Belize Government has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to maintaining the regional shipping line which was originally intended to link the countries of Caricom.

In July of 1985 the Esquivel government found itself with a bill from WISCO for Bel 302,000 dollars (one Bel dol -- U.S.) [as received], [one Bel dollar = 50 cents U.S. currency] even though a WISCO ship had never visited this country. Official sources told CANA Belize paid but was in arrears on its 1986 and 1987 contributions. Two other Caricom countries, Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines last year indicated that they will be pulling out of WISCO.

COSTA RICA

AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE TO NICARAGUA POSTPONED

PA040409 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0127 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] During a meeting held this afternoon between Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and Acting Foreign Minister Carlos Rivera Bianchini, it was decided to postpone sending the Costa Rican ambassador to Managua. This decision was made following the Sandinist government's strong attack against the 15 February meeting of the Central American presidents convoked by the president of the Republic. The acting foreign minister described the text of the communique released by the Sandinist government on the meeting of the presidents of the region, announced last week, as vulgar and spiteful. Farid Ayales, appointed ambassador to Nicaragua, will remain in Costa Rica until better bilateral relations are possible, the acting foreign minister said.

The Costa Rican Government feels that the Sandinist regime will not be able to use the excuse that they still want peace because they are rejecting a proposal they know nothing about and are offensive in rejecting it. The decision to postpone sending the new ambassador to Nicaragua ends the possibilities to normalize the relations between the two countries. During the past year and a half these relations have reached their lowest level. Acting Foreign Minister Rivera Bianchini said that the Sandinist attitude, far from contributing to achieving a peaceful solution, such as the one Costa Rica is seeking, presents a new obstacle for the peacemaking efforts.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON CENTRAL AMERICA SITUATION

AU031955 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1700 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Danielle Spera report on an interview with Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto on 3 February in Vienna -- recorded; Nieto's statements in English fading into German translation within quotation marks; passages in original English between slantlines]

[Text] Focal points of the Costa Rican foreign minister's trip through Europe are not only the efforts of the small Central American country to achieve cooperation with the West European states but also the preparations for the third Central America Conference, which is to take place next week in Guatemala. In addition to the five Central American countries, the Contadora states -- that is, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama -- the EC states will also participate in this conference.

Although efforts to achieve peace in this region have to date not yielded any profound results, Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto does not intend to give up:

"/The assessment of the situation after they made this tour of the region was not a very optimistic one./ I think the Contadora states are not very optimistic with regard to their peace efforts. But now we have to take the decision into our own hands and to more strongly emphasize the role of the Central American countries. Thus, I would not consider the Contadora initiative a failure, but -- on the contrary -- call it a very vibrant organization which is making a valuable contribution to peace in Central America."

Nevertheless, Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto believes that the Contadora initiative has failed with regard to one issue -- Nicaragua. In his opinion, Nicaragua has only paid lip service to the efforts of the Contadora states. Nicaragua has only theoretically but not in practice accepted the Contadora demand for a democratic system in the Central American countries.

"/We would like to see a democratic Nicaragua. We want to see a Nicaragua that will live according to the principles that they have promised./ We simply cannot tolerate Nicaragua's pretending to be a democracy but, in reality, acting exactly to the contrary. The Sandinists claim that they recognize human rights, but in their prisons there are many political prisoners. Freedom of opinion is propagandized, but there is no freedom of the press, not to mention religious freedom. This is not the right way to respect human rights."

A democratic development in Nicaragua is the precondition for a final and lasting peace, said Nieto. And for him, this involves guaranteeing all human rights, political pluralism, and democratic and free elections. Nicaragua has to embark upon such a path. It is one of the most urgent concerns of Costa Rica's President Oscar Arias to make the government of his neighboring country start democratization. Nevertheless, Nieto does not consider Nicaragua to be the only obstacle on the path toward a peaceful solution of the conflict in Central America.

"/There are many obstacles, and many groups and many actors. I would say that Nicaragua could facilitate world peace./ Of course, there are also other obstacles. Thus, the Sandinists, for instance, consider the contras an obstacle on the path toward a democratization of their country. We are now trying to achieve a truce in order to make the process of democratization easier for the Sandinists. The peace efforts are also not made particularly easy by the fact that there are so many parties with interests in this region."

In Costa Rica's capital, San Jose, one is also concerned about the increasing numbers of refugees from the neighboring country Nicaragua. In the meantime, 150,000 Nicaraguans live in Costa Rica, according to the government. Leading contra activities have moved to Costa Rica and are pursuing political propaganda from Costa Rica's neutral soil. It is compatible with Costa Rica's neutrality that the contras are openly making propaganda for armed struggle?

"/Yes, we said that neutrality means that we will never intervene in any military actions against other countries./ But our country is a democracy and all people enjoy the freedom to express their ideas. Furthermore, we grant asylum to any refugee, no matter which country or which party he comes from. In our country everyone can say anything, except for slander. But -- apart from that -- there is unconditional freedom of expression in our country."

BRIEFS

1986 EXPORT FIGURES -- Deputy Economy and Trade Minister Antonio Burgues has reported that Costa Rican exports to Central America amounted to $92 million during 1986. He said that the country imported $87 million, thus resulting in a $5-million surplus trade balance. Meanwhile, the Central American countries' debt to Costa Rica continued to be high last year. Guatemala owes $45 million, El Salvador $44 million, Honduras $28 million, and Nicaragua's debt remained at $217 million. [Summary] [San Jose LA Republica in Spanish 12 Jan 87 p 2 PA]

EL SALVADOR

AVALOS STATEMENT ON RELEASE, DUARTE COMMENT

PA031319 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0223 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Statement by Colonel Omar Napoleon Avalos and press conference by President Jose Napoleon Duarte with unidentified reporters at the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military School in San Salvador, no date given -- recorded]

[Text] [Avalos] I believe [words indistinct] to be able to speak to the media. I sincerely tell you that in addition to the efforts conducted by the supreme government and my beloved Armed Forces, I owe a lot to the press for being back again. More than once I lost hope of being able to return to this beautiful part of our country. I repeat: I am thankful to our government, the Armed Forces, the church -- I cannot forget the church -- and particularly to you. However, my emotions are so strong at this very moment that it is difficult for me to coordinate in my mind what I had planned to tell you, because I have thought about all of you a lot. With great difficulty, I managed to listen to other reports besides those of Romeo Victor of Radio Venceremos. I always hoped that one day I would be able to reciprocate, even if only with words expressing my gratitude. What you have done is tremendous. As I said, I had lost hope of being able to return one day, and I am aware of your efforts in all fields. Representatives of the press: Thank you very much. I hope that no one else will experience a similar situation.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to tell our country and other countries facing the same delicate situation as a result of violence, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to say this: Let us unite, all of us; let us seek peace, but not only from the mouth; let us seek peace from our hearts; and let us all achieve it, because there is too much violence -- it is unbearable.

I was held captive for 15 months, and I went through very difficult situations. I do not want this for anyone else, not even for my worst enemy. What is worse, we are all exposed. Therefore, I invite you to change our attitude toward each other, to act as brothers. You, my friends of the press, play an important role in these cases. Whether we achieve that objective, that peace, depends on you, to a great extent. Let us all seek it. You have that power in your hands.

I do not wish to speak very long, because I have a little boy who [words indistinct] because he does not know me, and I would like to be with him. It is hard to be away from home for 15 months. However, I do want to take this opportunity to tell you [words indistinct] of the messages I was able to send. I was forced to do so, but I also liked to do it, because it was an opportunity to communicate with others. I must tell the Armed Forces -- and I commit myself -- that if I fail, there is a code that can be applied to me. As I have said before, I respect, hold in esteem, and do not fail -- I hope I never will -- the Armed Forces. I have made a public commitment. Thank you, friends of the press.

[Reporter] President Duarte, now that Col Avalos is here safe and sound, what can you tell us about the government's action and about the Armed Forces cooperation?

[Duarte] I think the government has simply complied with its duty. We tried to save the life of a man who has given himself to the Armed Forces, and who has honored his word. For that reason, he spent 15 months in captivity. We did everything we could to save his life. The Armed Forces are proud to have an officer with Col Avalos' temperament and courage. You have heard him. He knows how sad and difficult 15 months of captivity can be. During 15 months, the terrorists at no time respected human rights. You knew him while he was at the Presidential House, and you have seen him now. You can realize how terrible it was, and all that he had to suffer. This is called terrorism in any language. This is dehumanization in any language. As Col Avalos said, I hope that this kind of thing will never happen again, because even though we must all seek peace, it must be a durable peace, a peace based on respect for human rights; and that is what the government and the Armed Forces are doing. This is my message as president of the Republic.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the freed union leaders. Will they be allowed to rejoin their organizations?

[Duarte] Anyone who obtains his freedom is free until he violates the law again. So, if they have been freed, it is because they have a right to be freed. Now, if they violate the law, no one should believe that a crime can go unpunished, because that would be creating destabilization and social disorder. If there is no democracy or freedom, there is no justice or social order. So, they are all free because the judges have so decided. Therefore, the government and the Armed Forces respect that freedom. Now, if they commit any other crime or any subversive action in the future, we will act as we have always acted.

[Reporter] Mr President, what is the reply to what Col Avalos said [words indistinct]?

[Duarte] As I said a while ago; my reply as president of the Republic is that I fully agree with each and every one of the words expressed by Col Avalos. What this government has been doing and will continue to do is to struggle for peace, for unity, for room for everybody, including the leftist sectors, so that they join the democratic process. This is what he said. He said: I would like to see everybody united to have peace, and this is what we are doing through the democratic process. Today, in front of you, he committed himself to continue fulfilling honorably his duty as a military man to secure peace and serve his Armed Forces.

I fully agree with Col Avalos' position. He has appealed to all the sectors of the country to understand how sad and painful it is not only to be kidnapped as many businessmen, my daughter, and he himself have been kidnapped, but also to learn how to appreciate the value of liberty. The value of liberty is so great and supreme that it should make us think carefully.

I believe this is the essence of what Col Avalos said: understanding and respecting human rights. The suffering he endured was a result of lack of respect for human rights by the terrorists who held him for 15 months. Terrible.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the Salvadoran Armed Forces?

[Durate] [Words indistinct] the Armed Forces.

Duarte Expands on Release

PA040138 San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] The president of the Republic has said that Colonel Omar Napoleon Avalos was finally released as a result of various negotiations with the rebels and in exchange for 57 political prisoners.

[Begin recording] [Duarte] We released about 49 war-disabled people [corrects himself] 42 disabled persons we had decided to release. General Blandon officially announced we had already issued the release orders. They did not want to leave until they could all go together, and apparently all of them are now in Cuba. We did everything from a humane point of view to offer humanitarian assistance, in both the problem of the disabled and the exchange for Colonel Avalos. This is interesting and one must be careful when analyzing this: The rebels agreed not to exchange Colonel Avalos for alleged guerrillas. This means that this is not a prisoner exchange and that they know -- and admit -- that Col Avalos was kidnapped. They agreed to exchange him for people who were not fighters. This is very important.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Duarte] When you refer to the trade union leaders, this presumably means they are not fighters. If they are not fighters, this means the guerrillas have agreed to exchange a kidnapped person for persons who presumably are not fighters.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Duarte] I am not going to accept anything. They are still holding three mayors, and there are eight persons that they have murdered. They do not want to say a word about that. We have brought this up twice, both at the time when we exchanged Ines Guadalupe, and when we exchanged Avalos. The guerrillas have not wanted to answer a word about this.

[Reporter] It is said that the FMLN presented a proposal to the central government to establish negotiations for the release of the kidnapped mayors.

[Duarte] This is absolutely false. I have all the information, but this is absolutely false. The trouble is that these men have sustained hard blows by the Armed Forces. They have lost two commanders anda large number of guerrillas in military operations. They now want to turn this into a political operation. We have asked them to deliver the mayors to us and the nine [as heard] people they have murdered in (Guapajagua) -- which they did not want to turn over when we exchanged Ines Guadalupe -- and which they did not want to turn over now when we exchanged Col Avalos. This means they do not want to explain this. The church even asked them about this, but the guerrillas do not want to explain anything about these persons. That is all I can tell you.

[Reporter] Are you going to accept the FMLN request for the exchange of the four [as heard] mayors?

[Duarte] I cannot accept the FMLN request, because it is false. I can demand that they release the mayors, because it is inhumane, and because it is a measure through which they are showing they are terrorists.

[Reporter] Why were the Centeno brothers not released in this exchange?

[Duarte] We cannot release these men because they have publicly declared their guilt. There is evidence to the effect they were the kidnappers, and we are never going to release kidnappers. The courts will have to decide this. [end recording]

After it was confirmed that Col Omar Napoleon Avalos had been released by the FMLN, 57 political prisoners were released from the Mariona and Women's Penitentiaries.

FMLN ORDERS TRANSPORTATION STOPPAGE 6 FEB

PA040152 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0050 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] Attention, attention please, this is Radio Venceremos, official voice of the FMLN. Attention transportation sector, attention Salvadoran people, attention local and foreign press, attention:

The FMLN General Command has ordered a national transportation stoppage to begin in the early hours of Friday 6 February. We repeat: The FMLN General Command has ordered a national transportation stoppage to cover all the main and secondary roads throughout El Salvador. This transportation stoppage will begin in the early hours of Friday 6 February.

We repeat: The FMLN General Command has ordered a national transportation stoppage as of the early hours of Friday 6 February. This new transportation stoppage expresses our rejection of the use of the electoral identification card for locating thousands of Salvadoran youths and for conscription. The Salvadoran Army wants to [words indistinct] more than 25,000 dead or wounded soldiers the Army has suffered in these years of war. More than 2,000 of these soldiers are disabled and have been abandoned. The youths are being forced to fight to protect interests that are foreign to them and their people. They are forced to defend the interests of the U.S. Administration.

We repeat that this new transportation stoppage is an expression of our rejecting the use of the electoral identification card to locate thousands of Salvadoran youths and for conscription.

GUATEMALA

CEREZO CONFIRMS ATTENDANCE AT SAN JOSE MEETING

PA032319 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo today confirmed that he will attend the 15 February meeting in San Jose of Central American presidents convoked by his Costa Rican counterpart, Oscar Arias.

Arias invited all his Central American counterparts, with the exception of Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega, to meet in San Jose to discuss the area peace process. Arias invited Cerezo, Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador, and Jose Azcona of Honduras.

Nicaragua has described the meeting in advance as a clear sabotage aimed against the negotiations process of the Contadora Group, adding that it is contrary to regional peace interests.

Meanwhile, the members of the Nicaraguan opposition applauded the initiative, stating that the only condition for achieving peace in the region is the democratization of Nicaragua.

Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez Amezquita said that Guatemala's participation in the Costa Rican meeting is not contrary to the policy of active neutrality proclaimed by the government.

[Begin Quinonez Amezquita recording] Our position is clear, it is absolutely clear. President Cerezo has decided to attend the Costa Rican meeting; however, at no time will this visit compromise the country's policy of active neutrality. We are going exculsively to discuss Costa Rica's peace proposal. Moreover, it would be wrong if the president did not attend this meeting, because President Arias and the rest of the presidents attended the Esquipulas meeting. Were we not to attend this meeting, it is possible that if we needed to convoke a presidential summit, we would not receive positive responses. Nevertheless, the essential issue I want to make clear is that the country will not compromise its policy of active neutrality. As we have said before, it is necessary to hear all peace proposals. If the peace proposals has positive aspects, we will acknowledge it, present it, and discuss it, not only with Nicaragua, but also with the Contadora Group countries. [end recording]

OSLO PAPER INTERVIEWS DEFENSE MINISTER

PM031605 Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 27 Jan 87 p 18

[Interview with Guatemalan Minister Jaime Hernandez Mendez by Gunnar Zachrisen: "The Guatemalan Army -- Guardian of Democracy?" -- date not given]

[Text] Guatemala City -- "It was Guatemala's Army which took the initiative for the democratization process the country has now set in motion. The Army has withdrawn from politics and fully supports the country's new elected government," Guatemalan Defense Minister Jaime Hernandez Mendez said. He represents an institution which for 30 years has played the main role in the country's political life.

Defense Minister Hernandez is thought to be one of the main people behind the worst wave of violence any Latin American country has experienced in the eighties. No one knows exactly how many people were the victims of the Guatemalan Army's bloody purges amongst the Indian population in rural areas, but some individual estimates suggest that more than 20,000 were killed and 500,000 driven into exile. The country's guerrilla movement, which enjoyed its greatest support among poor Indian péasants, has been much cut down in size as a result of the army's brutally effective methods.

[Zachrisen] Mr Defense Minister, why has Guatemala had greater success in combatting its guerrillas than its neighbor, El Salvador?

[Hernandez] Our armed forces have a professional attitude and more than 26 years of experience of antiguerrilla warfare. This gives us an effectiveness in our actions and has to be considered as the background of our successes.

[Zachrisen] Are the so-called "civil defense patrols" and the "enclave developments" [utvikingspolene] in the countryside (also known as model villages) two central elements in the Army's antiguerrilla strategy?

[Hernandez] Our strategy and the shape of our work are today linked to the government's overall policy and they embrace both military and socioeconomic aspects. The civil defense patrols are set up voluntarily by the population in the conflict areas after the Army has regained control. The patrols have been a definite success and give the people in these areas greater security.

As far as the "enclaves of development" are concerned, these are a project which the Army has set in motion. The new rural villages were created to receive refugees who had sought refuge abroad and have given them a chance to build their own houses and to enjoy services like electric lighting, water, schools, and health care.

[Zachrisen] Are these steps attempts to "deprive the fish of their water"?

[Hernandez] Of course. Mao Zedong said that guerrillas should move among the people like "fish in water." We are trying to deprive the fish of as much water as possible, so that they can no longer survive.

[Zachrisen] In the past you have expressed some skepticism about beginning a dialogue with the URNG guerrilla movement. Is there any disagreement on this point between the officers and the country's president?

[Hernandez] It is entirely up to the president to define the foundation for a possible dialogue and what it is supposed to lead to. The armed forces back the government's policy completely -- both foreign and domestic policy.

[Zachrisen] The Group for Mutual Support (GAM) has demanded to be told the truth about their family members who have disappeared and to bring those responsible to trial.

[Hernandez] I think that the GAM has lost a little of its original thrust. Recently the group has accepted support from organizations which have goals different from finding those who have disappeared. This has led the GAM and its leader, Nineth Montenegro de Garcia, along the wrong path.

[Zachrisen] The UN General Assembly recently gave Guatemala good grades for the development of the human rights situation in the country.

[Hernandez] The UN vote is the country's greatest success hitherto. The voting figures, 122 against 0, are an indication of our great progress in this area.

[Zachrisen] Is the Sandinist regime in Nicaragua a security threat to Guatemala?

[Hernandez] Yes, definitely. We are worried about the situation in Central America at the moment when Nicaragua is undoubtedly receiving much support from Cuba and the Soviet Union. We consider governments of this type to be expansionist.

[Zachrisen] The right-wing MLN [National Liberation Movement] claims that it has 8,000 men engaged in armed training with a view to fighting alongside the contras in Nicaragua.

[Hernandez] I take the basic view that all political parties can express their views in today's Guatemala, but our Constitution forbids this sort of activity in this country. The Army is the only legal armed organization whose job it is to deal with our internal and external security. The setting up of other armed groups is against the law -- something that has been made very clear in a statement on the matter which the government has made public.

[Zachrisen] What is the importance of the resumption of U.S. military aid to Guatemala?

[Hernandez] The aid has not really been resumed. So far we have only received aid worth $5 million. But we believe that this is the door to something more, and are hoping for a continuation of the aid in the near future. The military aid from the United States is really of absolutely crucial importance to the armed forces.

ARMED FORCES ANNOUNCE APPOINTMENTS, ROTATIONS

PA031912 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0500 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Changes and rotations have been officially announced. There have been changes and rotations in the Armed Forces in the administrative and command posts in the military bases in the interior of the country. This comes in the wake of the appointment of a new defense minister. [passage omitted]

Colonel Arturo Guillermo de la Cruz was appointed deputy defense minister, which is the second most important post. He is replacing Colonel Eliu Cabrera Padilla. Colonel Felix Armando Baeza Cortez was appointed Defense Secretary General. General Edilberto Letona Linares is now the chief of the Army General Staff. Colonel Jose Luis Diaz Munoz was transferred to the Mariscal Zavala military headquarters. Colonel Hernan Ponce Nich was appointed to the Quezaltango military zone.

Other minor changes and rotations in the Army are as follows: Colonel Carlos Dorantes Marroquin was appointed commander of the Military Reserves. Captain (Jorge Arturo Mazariegos) was appointed commander of the Atlantic Naval Base, and Captain Arturo Rubio Ruiz was appointed commander of the Pacific Naval Base. Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Letono Hora has already taken over his duties as information chief, and Major Eduardo Efrain Izaguirre Cambara is the director of television channel 5. [passage omitted]

HONDURAS

REGALADO HERNANDEZ EVALUATES REGIONAL SITUATION

PA262202 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Jan 87

["Exclusive" interview with General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, Armed Forces commander in chief, by reporters Trino Murillo and Danilo Izaguirre at the National Congress on 25 Janury -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] In assuming this great responsibility entrusted to you by the government through the executive branch [words indistinct] the people, what will be your main concern as commander in chief of the Armed Forces?

[Regalado] My main concern will be strictly following the Constitution of the Republic, which guides the actions of the commander in chief. I will also endeavor to comply with my secondary mandate, as outlined in the Armed Forces law. In this way, I believe I will comply with the responsibilities entrusted to me.

[Question] General, the consolidation of the Honduran Armed Forces has been questioned. You have a very serious responsibility, a commitment to the Honduran people to build on what has previously been achieved. How do you see your responsibility?

[Regalado] As I said, my responsibility is outlined in the Constitution. Obviously, one of the greatest responsibilities of a commander in chief is to maintain the Armed Forces ready to protect the nation.

[Question] Are you assuming that responsibility? For example, regarding the Central American problem, there have been many comments regarding the Costa Rican, Honduran, and Salvadoran questioning of Nicaragua's position. Do you think peace depends on Nicaragua?

[Regalado] Definitely so. As the president has said, peace depends on Managua. I totally agree with him.

[Question] Do frequent attacks create conflictive situations?

[Regalado] We Hondurans face a permanent threat. We cannot overlook that real threat at our border. It is a permanent concern, not only for the Armed Forces, but for all the Honduran people.

[Question] What is the opinion of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces about the Contadora Group?

[Regalado] As the president has said -- and I agree with him on this -- Honduras will be one of the Contadora Group's best partners.

[Question] What do you mean by that?

[Regalado] I think the meaning of the president's statement can be easily understood in its political sense.

[Question] Isn't this contradictory, considering that there is a strong blockade through coincidental positions or actions against the Nicaraguan regime because it is not a democratic government, general?

[Regalado] Yes. Without entering into aspects of international policy, I can easily understand the concern expressed by the UN secretary general that there is no political willingness to find a solution in Central America. I think the governments freely elected by the people have shown political willingness. However, Nicaragua has not shown political willingness.

[Question] How could this political willingness be consolidated, general?

[Regalado] I am afraid I cannot answer that question. It should be answered by other authorities who know more about international policy than I do.

[Question] Do you think Nicaragua is willing to arrive at an overall agreement in Central America?

[Regalado] I don't know. That depends on the commitments the Nicaraguan Government may have. I think the commanders can still adopt an upright positions by complying with their OAS commitments and by respecting the Nicaraguan people's freedom. They could emerge as the commanders of the revolution, of the revolution that even the Honduran people supported when they fought to oust the dictator Somoza from Nicaragua.

[Question] General, under those circumstances, who is to be blamed for not achieving peace in the area?

[Regalado] Nicaragua, definitely.

[Question] We are facing a very serious situation, general. There are frequent robberies in our country. Only last Sunday, Banadesa [National Agricultural Development Bank] in San Pedro Sula was attacked by three women and two men, according to reports. What actions will be taken by the Public Security Forces [FUSEP] under Colonel Leonel Aquiles Riera Lunatti within the context of the Armed Forces responsibilities?

[Regalado] This year we have given priority to FUSEP to improve the wages and personal status of its members. By raising the wages, we think we will have better policemen who, in turn, will give better service to our citizens.

[Question] General, because of its importance I would like to ask about the Central American problem. Some people say that we are on the verge of war, that we are going to lend our territory, and that we are instruments of U.S. imperialism. What is your opinion?

[Regalado] No, that is not true. The president has already said that Honduras will not lend itself for an invasion of Nicaragua. We do not want war with Nicaragua. Logically, our responsibility is to defend our country's integrity and sovereignty, and that is our main duty.

[Question] However, while El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica have maintained similar positions, Guatemala has remained aside. This has prevented a unified Central American position.

[Regalado] I think this is unfortunate, because the Guatemalan Government was elected by the people, just as the Salvadoran, Honduran, and Costa Rican Governments. I believe that it would be good if the four Central American democratic presidents unified their viewpoints, in order to face Nicaragua together.

[Question] General, politicians claim that war drums already can be heard at the Honduran-Nicaraguan border. Without [words indistinct] what is your responsibility and opinion on this?

[Regalado] The official position is that we face a latent threat at the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

[Question] In this respect, what would the Armed Forces do? Would you support the president, who has said that Honduras will not permit another Sandinist attack?

[Regalado] Definitely. That position was expressed by the president. We are a disciplined body, and since that is an Armed Forces' responsibility, we will not permit any new attack on Honduran territory.

[Question] Does this mean that we will no longer be tolerant?

[Regalado] In reality, I do not think we have been tolerant. We have held some maneuvers during... [changes thought] there have been some incursions, some more serious than others. We reacted immediately to the two most serious ones.

[Question] General Regalado Hernandez, what will Honduras or the Armed Forces do regarding the mines that have been placed along the Nicaraguan border?

[Regalado] You have read the communique we issued recently in which we reported that we had two dead and two wounded: two sergeants and two soldiers. We have found a large number of mines in our territory -- approximately 200 bouncing mines [minas saltarin], which are known as Claymore mines and type-C mines [as heard]. Therefore, we are clearing the area so that at any given moment we can take the residents of those areas by the hand and lead them back to their respective properties.

[Question] Have Peru, Mexico, or Colombia -- to give examples -- the moral authority to force you into a Central American peace treaty that goes against our interests?

[Regalado] I must abstain from answering that question.

[Question] General, some politicians and international policy experts point out that it is inconceivable that the Peruvian president has embraced the Nicaraguan president, and now wants to serve as a mediator in the Central American conflict. What prospective or advantage does this give us?

[Regalado] I do not know. As I said, I do not know very much about political affairs, but President Reagan has, occasionally, embraced Gorbachev.

[Question] Are we on the verge of war, general?

[Regalado] No, I do not believe so.

NICARAGUA

'COMMUNIQUE' ON SAN JOSE PRESIDENT'S MEETING

PA040056 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Jan 87 p 5

["Communique" issued by Foreign Ministry, dated Managua, 30 January 1987]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry denounces the upcoming meeting of some Central American presidents in San Jose as a clear sabotage to the Contadora Group's peace process.

Nicaragua regards as truly regrettable the fact that some governments of friendly countries have allied themselves with the aggressor power at a time when a Latin American country is being subjected to a foreign aggression that has elicited more worldwide repudiation and condemnation than any other.

In due time, all genuine Latin Americans condemned the backing given by the United States to Great Britain in the latter's aggression against the friendly Argentine nation. Some have termed the United States a traitor. However, the fact that some Central American countries are joining the dirty, immoral, and illegal war of the United States against Nicaragua is more abominable, blameworthy, and constitutes greater treason. The clear purpose of this is to deny this country the full exercise of its sovereign rights.

Nicaragua does not want, much less demand, that Costa Rica, Honduras, or El Salvador relinquish their independence and revert, once and for all, to the status of backyard nations with a limited sovereignty imposed on them by the United States. It is up to the people and each country to determine their own destinies. Nicaragua has always respected and will always respect this inalienable right of the peoples.

Nicaragua understands that democracy is necessarily preceded by the attainment and defense of national sovereignty and that, therefore, it makes no sense for the U.S.' new colonies in Central America to spend their time singing the virtues of a democracy they will never have if they do not recover their sovereignty. We insist that the decision on how best to defend sovereignty is a prerogative and inalienable right of the peoples, the respect for which is absolutely necessary.

Nicaragua can maintain good relations equally well with new colonies and independent countries. But we do not permit any one country, much less new colonies, to try to teach us lessons in democracy. This is because this is something only those countries that have the courage to recover and defend their sovereignty can know about.

The main Central American peace problem continues to be the clear hostility of area countries pressured by the United States, which makes them accomplices in its interventionist policy.

Just as democracy is preceded and supplemented by the urgent recovery of national sovereignty, peace is necessarily preceded by the strictest obedience to international law, whose raison d'etre is precisely the maintenance of international peace and security. We cannot and should not try to force anyone to become independent to become democratic, but we can and should demand that international relations conform to norms and legal principles included in the UN and OAS Charters.

The planned meeting of heads of state in Costa Rica is the most recent demonstration of the U.S. interventionist policy, which has killed so many and caused so much destruction in Central America.

The evident purpose of this planned meeting is to end the noble negotiations efforts of the Contadora and Support Groups. This effort has recently been backed by the presence in Central America during a peace tour of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares.

Contadora represents the most noble and firm demonstration of Latin American unity to defend the right of self-determination of all the peoples of the region, and to reject foreign intervention, all of which is indispensable to ensure international peace and security. Because of this, the planned Costa Rica meeting is contrary to the interests of peace in Central America and the noblest aspirations of the Latin American peoples.

Managua, 30 January 1987

VOZ DE NICARAGUA JOURNALIST JOINS CONTRAS

PA040108 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2125 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] San Jose, 3 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Alvaro Banarelos, a journalist working for the Sandinist radio station La Voz de Nicaragua, has deserted and joined the "contras," opposition spokesmen disclosed today in Managua. According to the sources, the reporter told the leaders of the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO) that he had been working in the "Contacto 620" program directed by Argentine Luis Cabrera.

Banarelos is 28 years old; he said he deserted "because he does not agree with the political goals of the Sandinist regime." He did not specify the length of time he worked at the government radio station.

UNO sources identified Banarelos as "the first journalist to desert," confirming that he has fled the country with his wife and children, and is collaborating with the anti-Sandinists.

UNO is in the process of seeking rapprochement with the southern front led by Fernando "El Negro" Chamorro, who is the commander in chief, and with the former commanders who disavowed Eden Pastora in May 1986 and joined Chamorro to continue the struggle against the government of Daniel Ortega.

BARRICADA OUTLINES 1987 PRODUCTION PLANS

PA032233 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Jan 87 p 3

[By Vilma Arias; all figures as published]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The plan for this year is to produce more with better profit margins. The plan includes several objectives, applicable to individual sectors, all of which are under pressure just as the overall plan is. This is primarily due to the aggravation of the war, the efforts involved in consolidating the strategic defeat, and the money shortage, which stems from low international market prices.

For example, the plan includes the cultivation of 946,900 manzanas with products both for export and local consumption. Cultivation of land with products for export includes 85,500 manzanas of cotton; 23,300 manzanas of sesame; 102,100 manzanas of coffee; 63,000 manzanas of sugarcane; 3,800 manzanas of bananas; 3,700 manzanas of tobacco; and 3,000 manzanas of peanuts.

For local consumption products, the plans contemplate the cultivation of 64,400 manzanas of rice; 142,300 manzanas of beans; 250,000 manzanas of corn; 114,900 manzanas of industrial sorghum; 25,000 manzanas of millet; 17,200 manzanas of soybean; 5,900 manzanas of African palm tree; and 28,500 manzanas of vegetables.

The objective for this sector is to increase exports, make more food available for the population, better use of resources and the capacity of the facilities, as well as strengthen the cooperatives movement so that it can make a greater and higher quality contribution to national production.

One important factor in the agricultural sector is that loans will be delivered during the first 2 months so that the normal beginning of the productive cycle is in April, also, product prices, marketing, and technical assistance will be ensured.

As for the mining industry, the plan contemplates a 38-percent increase in gold production and an 84 percent increase in silver production. Similar increases are anticipated in sand and lime production. In the coastal region -- one of the most backward sectors production-wise as a result of the war -- it is hoped that it will be possible to increase both production for domestic usage and for export, to purchase vessels, promote the labor force, improve procedures in the shipment, storage, and conservation of seafood, and to investigate the potential of Nicaraguan waters.

As for the fishing sector, expected production is estimated at some 13.3 million pounds, of which 8.6 million pounds will be used for domestic consumption and 4 million pounds for export.

Last year the industrial sector showed a 6 percent improvement. This year, the plans are to take full advantage of the industrial park, by supporting all firms that produce goods for export, without neglecting those that produce goods for domestic consumption, for the country's defense, and for the civilian population.

The obsolescence of industrial machinery, the lack of proper maintenance, the lack of spare parts, the slow supply of materials, and the drop in the number of qualified personnel are the main industrial sector problems. However, production levels are expected to increase considerably. Exports are expected to reach $42 million.

In education, the goals for 1987 include the enrollment of 151,000 students in adult education programs, including those in the Filemon Rivera special program; 832,000 students in elementary and high schools; and 30,000 students in universities. Over 48,000 teachers are needed to meet the needs of 1,013,000 students. Sandinist youth brigades are needed to teach children and adults to read and write. [passage omitted]

To safeguard public health, preventive medicine services will be increased. The treatment of tropical diseases will be expanded to reduce the demand for hospital services.

It is expected that there will be 6,535,000 visits to doctors, 4,651,000 laboratory tests, 600,000 visits to the dentist, 225,000 patients hospitalized, and 64,000 women giving birth in hospitals. It is expected that 5,707,000 people will be vaccinated and 2,369,400 cases of infantile disease will be treated. [passage omitted]

For 1987 the priorities in the supply of goods will remain the same: 1. The Armed Forces 2. Peasant families 3. Peasant workers 4. Urban population 5. Small- and medium-size industry 6. Service sector. [passage omitted]

BRIEFS

NEW ANN OFFICES OPENED -- With the goal of linking various areas of the country to one another through reliable information, ANN opened an office in Bluefields this weekend. The news agency will open another office in Puerto Cabezas tomorrow, 4 February. It was possible to open these offices through the cooperation of the Workers Cultural Association of Sweden and Norway. [Summary] [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Feb 87 PA]

C.A. PRESIDENTS TO FINALIZE 'ILL-FATED PLAN'

PA031406 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Feb 87

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] A meeting of Central American presidents, during which the leaders of Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador will give the finishing touches to the so-called alternate plan for the Central American conflict, will take place in San Jose on 15 February. In addition to the divisionist posture that will be discussed, we wish to stress that at that meeting finishing touches will be given to an ill-fated plan conceived in the United States by Costa Rican President Oscal Arias, his foreign minister, Rodrigo Madrigal, and Elliott Abrams, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

It goes without saying that this group of countries, self-styled the Tegucigalpa Bloc, is attempting to impose extremely onerous conditions on Nicaragua to force it to fall into step with the U.S. policy in the area. The Sandinist authorities have repeatedly rejected this form of blackmail. However, the furious divisionist offensive launched shortly after the tour of the Contadora and Support Groups and the unfavorable situation of the bands of Somozist mercenaries, who to a greater or lesser extent enjoy shelter in those four countries, deserve greater attention.

Perhaps the Americans and their local vassals would be more at ease if the counterrevolutionary bands were successful or if they had achieved even a small consolidation of power within Nicaragua. However, these immoral and cowardly groups are immersed in total defeat.

In this context, President Daniel Ortega said in Nicaragua on Friday that the consolidation of the Sandinist revolution implies the failure of the U.S. aggressive policy toward Central America, stressing that the revolution continues to be victorious despite the war unleashed by the White House. It would have been impossible to hold elections in Nicaragua and to approve the Constitution enacted on 9 January if the counterrevolution had the upper hand in the war, Ortega pointed out. Meanwhile, Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega said several days ago that the power of the EPS has prevented the counterrevolution from consolidating an offensive from Honduras into Nicaragua.

The tense and heated debates in the U.S. Senate, which is examining a bill to stop U.S. assistance to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, are set against this backdrop. The bill, introduced by Democratic Senator Christopher Dodd, proposes blocking the disbursement of $40 million to the contras, a sensible measure in the face of the contras' evident defeat.

The upcoming meeting of the presidents of Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras will no doubt yield no other result than the total submission of these governments to the instigative and warmongering White House policy, designed to block peace negotiations and defeat the Nicaraguan revolution.

PANAMA OPPOSES MILITARIZATION OF C.A. EXERCISES

PA031552 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] The Contadora Group, made up of Panama, Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela, is waging an arduous struggle in favor of peace and self-determination for the Latin American peoples. When the group was created on 9 January 1983, its aim was to reach a consensus for peace and cooperation based on peaceful coexistence and mutual respect among the countries in conflict. Panama, as host to the meetings of the negotiating group, and based on the principle of nonintervention, began the search for peaceful alternatives to counter the options implying the use of military force in the region.

Moreover, because Panama has a long experience in foreign intervention, it is very concerned to see that in the face of an aggravation of the Central American conflict, the United States is turning to mechanisms set forth in the provisions on war in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties -- which the two parties signed in 1977 -- to attack its neighbors and thus directly involve Panama in the conflict. Panamanian foreign policy rejects the militarization of the region and the continuous military exercises that make the relations between conflicting countries tenser and which counter the provisions of the canal treaties.

Today, 4 yeas after the Contadora Group began its efforts and in the wake of insistent urging by Panama to the countries with links or interests in the area not to intervene in the domestic affairs of the area nations, the group has successfully prevented the dangers and threats of a generalized conflict. Panama has also denounced the use of the canal's defense infrastructure for missions that are not in line with the security and defense of the waterway as stated in the treaties. This conduct repeatedly observed by the U.S. Government implies the taking of reprisals against Panama on the part of the nations that are targets of aggression. Panama is confronting this situation by giving priority in its foreign policy to the principles of nonalignment, nonintervention, and unity among Third World nations to make more dynamic its diplomatic efforts leading to the turnover by the United States of the interoceanic waterway in the year 2000.

Panama, which has played a fundamental role in the Contadora process, wishes to see the peace efforts end with the signing of the document for peace and cooperation in Central America. In line with this goal, Panama recently hosted an important meeting of the UN and OAS secretaries general and the foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups to define new ways to reach a political -- versus military -- solution to the Central American problem.

U.S.-PANAMANIAN MANEUVERS TO 'AGGRAVATE TENSION'

PA252136 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Jan 87

[Text] The Panamanian-U.S. military maneuvers to be held 4-14 February in Chiriqui Province will aggravate tension in the area, Teodoro Hunt -- a Panamanian struggler for peace -- has told this radio station during an interview.

Hunt said that 15,000 soldiers will participate in the exercises, whose objective is to create environmental and psychological conditions among the population for an aggression on Nicaragua.

Hunt repudiated any attempt by imperialism to use Panamanian territory as a beachhead for an aggression on sister nations.

FORMER SALVADORAN PRISONER COMMENTS ON RELEASE

PA040325 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Telephone interview with Jose Edgar Gomez, "member of the agricultural labor union" and former "Salvadoran political prisoner," by unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] On Monday, 2 February, Jose Napoleon Duarte's regime released 57 Salvadoran political prisoners while the guerrillas simultaneously freed Colonel Omar Napolean Avalos. The former prisoners are labor leaders and active members of human rights organizations. One of them is Jose Edgar Gomez, member of the agricultural labor union whom we have contacted by telephone in San Salvador.

[Gomez] I was in prison for 7 months. Why was I arrested? I was arrested because I was accused of belonging to a rebel organization, the FMLN in fact. I was accused of that and that is why I was jailed.

[Reporter] The possiblility of remaining in El Salvador was one of the questions brought up during our brief conversation with Salvadoran labor leader Jose Edgar Gomez.

[Gomez] I am going to remain here in El Salvador and I am going back to my work and back to my labor union to serve in whatever capacity I am able. We have learned that of all the people liberated yesterday, none will leave the country -- that is, unless they change their minds later. For the time being the are all returning to work in their organizations and their unions from which they were violently separated by this country's security forces. It is a well-known fact here and all over the world that there is and always has been repression against organizations and labor unions.

The workers are repressed because they struggle to improve and to fulfill their basic needs. Those of us who have been released might now suffer the consequences because repression has always been the policy of this regime and of previous regimes as well.

Napoleon Duarte's regime has been particularly noted for its repression against the labor movement, the peasants, the cooperatives, and the human rights organizations. As of now we are holding Napoleon Duarte's government responsible for whatever might happen to any of the released companeros.

[Reporter] You have just heard statements by Jose Edgar Gomez, one of the 57 Salvadoran political prisoners liberated on Monday, 2 February by Jose Napoleon Duarte's regime.

GUATEMALAN VICE PRESIDENT TO VISIT NICARAGUA

PA040442 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Report by Luis Cabrera from Guatemala]

[Text] Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle will arrive in Nicaragua on Thursday, 5 February at 0900 hours, according to Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry sources.

The Guatemalan vice president will be met at Augusto C. Sandino International Airport by Nicaraguan Vice President Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado and will remain in Nicaragua until 1600 hours. The special purpose of this visit by the Guatemalan vice president is to reactivate efforts to establish a Central American parliament soon, in accordance with Guatemala's proposal of January 1985.

It was reiterated today that Nicaragua is interested in the creation of the Central American parliament, and that it supports the Guatemalan proposal to this effect.

CORRECTION TO HAVANA REPORT ON ECUADORAN ENVOY

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Eduadoran Envoy Criticizes Congress on Kidnapping," published in the 3 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, page Q 3.

After source line add:

[Announcer-read report followed by video of Frank Vargas Pazzos interview]

GDR OFFICIAL SIGNS PROTOCOL, RETURNS HOME

FL031358 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Dr Georg Sitzlack, state secretary and director fot the GDR State Office for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection, and those accompanying him, returned to their country after signing a protocol on the talks they held with Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of the Cuban Commission on Nuclear Energy.

Among other matters, the document includes information on Cuba's nuclear development, analyzes the results of scientific-technical cooperation, and considers cooperation possibilities in the area of nuclear safety.

ESCALONA, BURKINA FASO TO HOLD COOPERATION TALKS

FL032336 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1918 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] The second session of the joint Cuba-Burkina Faso Cooperation Commission will begin this week in that African state, reported Cuban Justice Minister Juan Escalona Reguera.

En route through Lisbon, Escalona stressed that after 5 days of meetings beginning Thursday [5 February], a cooperation protocol will be signed in the areas of public health, education, and agriculture. In addition, the ratification of bilateral agreements will be analyzed at the meeting.

The Cuban delegation attended the seventh session of the joint Cuba-Guinea-Bissau Commission on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation on 25-30 January.

Escalona stressed the importance of cooperation between Cuba and Burkina Faso and added that our people reiterate their solidarity with the African continent.

NATIONAL EDUCATION SEMINAR BEGINS 3 FEB

FL031915 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] The 11th National Education Seminar begins in this capital today with the participation of some 3,700 representatives. Among them are the country's mid-level centers' principals, 500 primary schools principals, education specialists and leaders from the Communist Party of Cuba and the government.

The seminar is being held as a result of the proposals made by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Various topics will be discussed during the seminar such as a standard policy on evaluation, requirements, and grade promotion and other related matters.

Fernandez Opens Session

FL040213 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Text] During the National Education Seminar, which began today with the participation of almost 4,000 delegates, extensive and in-depth debates were held on how to improve the quality of education.

The meeting was opened by Jose Ramon Fernandez, eduation minister, who said working toward quality creates conditions that guarantee the optimum result in our students' education.

Also participating in the first session of the seminar were Vilma Espin, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo and president of the Cuban Federation of Women, and Jose Ramon Balaguer, member of the Secretariat of the PCC Central Committee.

The work groups analyzing the needs of intermediate education stressed the need to define the knowledge each student should achieve at each level to avoid difficulties in other grades. They also discussed maintaining a uniform evaluation system that corresponds to what the students have learned.

Also discussed were the senior teachers, who have not received the assistance of higher institutes in efficiently fulfilling their tasks.

SANTIAGO SCHOOLS FAIL TO ATTRACT SCIENCE STUDENTS

FL312006 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Announcer-read report over video of young people in lab class with caption: "Low Entrance Rate in Santiago"]

[Text] Sixteen vocational pre-university institutes have been built in the country as a quarry of highly qualified experts in the exact sciences. With modern equipment and teachers skilled in the use of this equipment, the students graduating from these schools can choose to study the specialties of physics, chemistry, mathematics, electronics, and biology. For matriculation in the exact sciences' pre-university schools, the students must have a minimum grade average of 88 and be 16 years old at the most. They must also obtain satisfactory results in the integral evaluation, and their parents or guardians must observe an exemplary behavior in society.

Santiago de Cuba Province has done a poor job in recruiting students [words indistinct] basic secondary level of the province, only [words indistinct] prefer those pre-university schools. [Words indistinct] in Santiago municipalities in the recruitment of eighth grade students is Segundo Frente, with 20 percent of the registered students, and the one with the lowest number is Guama, with something over 6 percent.

The students and parents need to be given a good explanation about the broad possibilities and the high level of scientific training enjoyed by exact sciences graduates of vocational pre-university institutes.

VEIGA VIEWS LABOR REVISIONS AT STATE-UNION MEETING

FL302341 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1902 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] Roberto Veiga, secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC], has said in Havana that the documents canceling the regulations governing the payment of bonus incentives have been approved. These payments pertain to the production of export goods and scrap metal collection. Veiga, who is also member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo, made the closing remarks at a meeting of state administrative organs, CTC national unions, and peoples' government provincial labor directors.

Roberto Veiga reported that efforts have been made to revise quotas and they will be adhered to as much as possible. He underscored the need to retain quota officials [normadores]. This issue was discussed during the meeting.

Francisco Linares, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister president of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security, explained that quota officials will be relocated within their own work centers and fields and, ultimately, in other sectors of the territory.

In addition to the analysis of this year's figures, an inventory will be conducted to learn how many workers are needed in the 1987 economic activities, Francisco Linares said. He noted that preliminary results of the rearrangement process and request made to implement the current legislation, showed a favorable mean global salary rate during the second half of 1986.

Enrique Gutierrez, first vice minister of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security, talked about the guideline program for central state administration and local peoples' government organs regarding the regulations in force. The document includes the instructions to implement the rectification tasks in the regulation of work, payment and incentive systems, and other labor legislation matters.

Linares Outlines Session's Purpose

FL302137 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Announcer-read report with stills of meeting]

[Text] The rectification process, plan to provide guidelines to the state's central administration and people's government local organs, and compliance with disciplinary regulations and material responsibility programs were the subjects discussed by Francisco Linares, minister president of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security, CETSS, at a meeting held in Havana. The meeting was presided over by Osmani Cienfuegos and Roberto Veiga, members of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo. It was also attended by directors for labor and wage organization, state central administrative organs, and provincial labor directorates.

The meeting sought to give continuity this year to the guidelines set out in the plan of action against administrative irregularities and the errors and weaknesses of the economic management system. The CETSS, along with the state's central administration and people's government organs, have the support of the entire trade union movement.

PARTY ECONOMIC DEPARTMENTS HOLD NATIONAL MEETING

FL031353 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] An extensive critical and self-critical analysis regarding profitability, costs, economic efficiency, and the role of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] needs to play in all areas in dealing with the situation the country is facing because of the gradual deterioration of its indicators, characterized the national meeting of the PCC economic departments which began yesterday. The meeting was presided over by Lionel Soto Prieto, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat. The economic results of enterprises in 1986 regarding profitability and costs were examined.

The meeting will continue today and will analyze the main lines of work of the PCC Central Committee economic departments during the present year.

Debate 1987 Economic Tasks

FL040240 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Feb 87

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] The fundamental guidelines of the Economic Department of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee for 1987 were debated today by the participants to the national meeting of PCC economic departments.

The guidelines directing the PCC's work are given in the statements made by Fidel, the PCC program, and the fundamental goals of the economic and social guidelines for the 5-year period, 1987-90.

Among the measures to promote a strong turn in the country's economic situation is the need to work in the areas of labor and salaries, raw materials, materials [as heard], fuel and lubricants, and machinery and equipment. In those categories, problems have been noted such as the waste of material, financial, and human resources as well as lack of control.

In reference to profitability, it is necessary to know the causes that generate enterprise inefficiency.

The document calls for investigations into the lack of profitability or low profitability in sectors and branches of the economy such as the agricultural-livestock area, sugar complexes, and the mechanical branch, which compose the greatest number of enterprises.

Concerning the revision of the economy's direction, it is based on the principle stated by Comrade Fidel and developed in the documents of the first congress stating that the construction of socialism should be based on political-ideological work and the development of workers' awareness.

FOOD INDUSTRY UNION LEADER MAKES PLEDGES

FL300256 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] The country's food industry workers will do more with good quality using the same planned resources and will fulfill production levels set for 1987. This was said in Holguin by Jose De Jesus Linares, Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee member and secretary general of the National Food Industry Workers Union.

Linares said that even under the difficult economic situation the country is facing, the units and factories of the sector will have their raw material supplies guaranteed.

BARBADOS

GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS STATE-OWNED AIRLINE

FL300147 Bridgetown CANA in English 2248 GMT 29 Jan 87

[Statement issued by the Barbados Government on its decision to suspend scheduled services of the state-owned airline, Caribbean Airways]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 29, CANA -- "In 1974 the government of Barbados, under a joint venture agreement with Laker Airways, acquired 51 per cent of the shareholding of Caribbean Airways. The agreement with Laker Airways expressly stipulated that the government would not be required to provide financial support to Caribbean Airways in the event the airline incurred losses on its operations. It is on this basis that it was agreed the airline should operate.

However, in February 1982, following the collapse of Laker Airways, the then government decided to assume full responsibility for the operations of Caribbean Airways. And since that date the airline company has each year received subventions from the Barbados Treasury. Between February 1982 and January 1987 subsidies totalling 25 million Barbados dollars (one Barbados dollar -- 50 cents U.S.) -- on average five million dollars per annum -- have been paid to Caribbean Airways by the government out of the consolidated fund. Despite these subventions, the liabilities of the airline have steadily increased over the years. At March 1982 the total liabilities stood at just over 24 million dollars. This amount is substantially greater than the total assets of the company.

Financial projections prepared in March 1986 by reputable international airline consultants forecast that for the foreseeable future Caribbean Airways will continue to return net losses on its air transport operations, even if services were extended to North American points. This forecast has since been confirmed by the ministry responsible for civil aviation. Further annual losses will of course mean that government will be required to provide further financial support.

The government has carefully reviewed this situation and has regretfully come to the conclusion that, in accordance with its well-publicised policy, the taxpayers of Barbados should no longer be expected to subsidise the operations of a non-essential commercial enterprise which is clearly not financially viable, nor likely to become so in the foreseeable future.

Accordingly, with effect from the financial year commencing April 1, 1987 the government will cease providing subsidies to Caribbean Airways. As a result of this decision the scheduled services of Caribbean Airways will therefore be suspended from the end of March 1987.

In order to ensure that air services to Barbados from continental Europe and the UK are not seriously disrupted discussions have been held with BWIA [British West Indies Airways] and British Airways, and under certain understandings reached with these airlines the ministry responsible for aviation is satisfied that adequate capacity will be made available to meet the anticipated demand for airline seats for traffic normally carried on the routes concerned.

For the immediate future Caribbean Airways will be concentrating on providing passenger handling services for other airlines operating through Grantley Adams International Airport and may, from time to time, offer charter services at peak periods.

The government hereby gives the assurance to all bonafide creditors of Caribbean Airways that it will honour the airlines indebtedness to all such creditors."

GRENADA

POLICE SEIZE MARIJUANA, DETAIN 20 IN SLUM RAID

FL311434 Bridgetown CANA in English 1238 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Jan 31, CANA -- Grenada police say they detained 20 people in a drugs swoop yesterday in a St Georges slum. A police spokesman said at least two of those held would be charged with being in possession of drugs. Police said they seized an undisclosed amount of marijuana. It was the second major raid in the city in recent weeks.

JAMAICA

SEAGA WARNS PNP PROTESTS WILL 'DAMAGE' ECONOMY

FL031322 Bridgetown CANA in English 2108 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 2, CANA -- Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga has criticised planned opposition protests to force general elections here, suggestions that the real motive was to damage the tourism industry and undermine the new stand-by agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Seaga spoke yesterday at a central executive meeting of his ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and a report of his statement was issued afterwards.

We are not impressed by the arguments that the demonstrations are intended to be peaceful and that the PNP (People's National Party) has conducted activities on a peaceful basis, the prime minister said.

PNP leader Michael Manley has warned that he will begin protests if Seaga fails to call general election by April. The party is already putting its case for a national election -- which Seaga is not constitutionally bound to call until early 1989 -- in a series of meetings around the island.

In yesterday's statement, Seaga said anyone planning demonstrations for this time could only want to damage the economy, frustrate his IMF agreement and cause a devaluation of the Jamaican dollar.

In the new 15-month package of US 132.8 million dollars, Seaga was able to avoid up-front devaluation, so long as inflation was held at no more than seven percent this year. This, the prime minister, said was primarily dependent on maintaining strong tourism earnings.

The PNP has rejected that it was disturbing tourism, pointing to the fact that it had planned its action for after the winter tourist season (December-March). Its behaviour, the opposition party argued, was unlike that of the JLP opposition in the 1970's which the PNP said went out of its way to create tensions in the society.

However, government officials have ignored those charges and have been stressing that tourism was now an all-year activity and no longer a seasonal activity.

...No one should be deluded into believing that we can have demonstrations at any time of year without disrupting this very vital industry which is currently the lynchpin of the country's economy, the tourism minister, Hugh Hart, said in a speech yesterday.

And Seaga said the PNP could not be counted on to have only peaceful protests. We have had ugly demonstrations in the last three years one of which -- the gas price demonstration -- wrecked tourism for one and a half years before we could bring it back to normal, he said. Sharp increase in petrol prices in January 1985 sparked five days of protests here which were generally held to have started spontaneously.

PNP Leader's Rejoinder

FL031619 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] General Secretary of the People's National Party [PNP] Dr Paul Robertson says that Prime Minister Seaga need not panic that the PNP will organize violent confrontation or economic sabotage as part of its plans to press for general elections.

Dr Robertson made these comments yesterday in response to a statement issued by Mr Seaga. Dr Robertson added that a cabinet minister had joined in the defense of not pressing for general elections because of the sensitivity of the tourism industry. The minister said tourism was now a year-round business. Dr Robertson said what we suggest is that as tourism was not merely a winter-oriented industry, people should not demonstrate for democracy at any time during the rest of the year. This, he said, was ridiculous. He said what is needed is the political maturity to hold elections without violence, and said in its campaign for and during elections the PNP is committed to peace.

ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

SIMMONDS CONDEMNS REPORTED DESTABILIZATION PLAN

FL031420 Bridgetown CANA in English 2146 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, Feb 2, CANA -- St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr Kennedy Simmonds has accused local and foreign interests of collaborating to destabilize his government. In a radio and television address last night Simmonds said this was brought to his attention in Washington last week, by U.S. Government officials.

He said the information had led him to believe there is a planned organized and orchestrated programme to destabilize the government by elements within and outside the official political opposition, who he said find no [words indistinct] the electorate in a straightforward and forthright manner.

This is seen here as a reference to an oppostion Labour Party call for the resignation of the government over a scandal linking some North American businessmen with criminal records to an offshore bank here, the International Bank, Limited.

The story was first carried in a Canadian newspaper, THE GLOBE AND MAIL, and was reprinted in its entirety by the opposition-linked Labor spokesman. A government spokesman here said the story was filled with unmistakable insinuations reflecting on the integrity of government. Simmonds categorically rejected the undertones, and questioned the motives of the Canadian newspaper in "completely ignoring" the forthrightness of a full statement prepared for its reporter by this country's attorney general.

There is a conspiracy between persons here and persons in Toronto or with connections in Toronto to undermine and destabilize this country, or to jeopardize relations between his government and the Government of Canada, which is one of our principle aid donors, Simmonds said.

He said he was satisfied that the Canadian Government would not condone such activity and that he was looking forward to their assistance.

Simmonds, in his 40-minute address, said he was shown documents while in Washington which indicated that certain interests here had approached the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to seek to scuttle a major road project aimed at opening the vast potential of the country's south east peninsula to development.

Simmonds said he was also told that members of the U.S. Congress were approached with the same objectives, but in spite of these dastardly acts, he was able to obtain from USAID a commitment for additional funds required, bringing the total amount committed to the road, to some EC22 million dollars.

Preaches 'Tough Line' on Violence

FL032007 Bridgetown CANA in English 1845 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, Feb 3, CANA — St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds has told opponents the government will take a tough line with political violence.

...We are not going to be intimidated, the prime minister said during an address to the nation. The address followed last weeks stone-throwing incident at a meeting of the ruling party. Simmonds complained that opponents were trying to destabilise the state.

The idea is to give the impression to the outside world that St Kitts and Nevis is unstable, and unsafe, that there are constant demonstrations, and that it is not a good place to invest, Simmonds remarked.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

RULING PARTY RETAINS SEAT IN BY-ELECTION

FL031458 Bridgetown CANA in English 0207 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, Feb 2, CANA -- St Vincent and the Grenadines ruling New Democratic Party (NDP) tonight convincingly retained the urban east Kingstown seat in a mid-term by-election, with its candidate receiving a higher percentage of the vote than in the 1984 general elections.

According to preliminary results, Parnell Campbell, a lawyer, polled 1,749 votes, or 60 per cent of the total ballot for the NDP, compared with 58 per cent in 1984 for the late Health Minister Edward Griffith, whose sudden death last December occasioned the by-election.

Trade unionist Burns Bonadie, making his second attempt to win the seat for the main opposition St Vincent Labour Party (SVLP), came in second with a tally of 791 votes, representing a decline in the SVLP vote in the constituency compared with 1984.

Prime Minister James Mitchell hailed the victory as a clear endorsement of the policies of his two and a half year old administration. "Our mandate has been refreshed," he said on state-owned Radio St Vincent. The preliminary result showed 2,914 or 65 per cent of the 4,420 registered voters had cast ballots, compared with 86 per cent in 1984.

The four other candidates in the race - Mike Browne of the left-leaning United Peoples Movement (UPM), Cyprian Nehaul of the left-leaning Movement for National Unity (MNU), Percival Stapleton of the People's Political Party (PPP) and independent Emery Robertson, the former attorney general, all lost their deposits.

Browne polled 219 votes, Nehaul 78, Robertson 41, and Stapleton 6. By retaining the east Kingstown seat, the NDP maintained its 11-2 majority over the SVLP in parliament.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

NAR APPOINTS GROUP TO PROBE ALLEGED CORRUPTION

FL272108 Bridgetown CANA in English 1345 GMT 27 Jan 87

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Jan 27, CANA -- The one-month-old National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) government last night announced the appointment of a three-man commission to probe alleged corruption under the former People's National Movement (PNM) administration.

Prime Minister A N R Robinson told a late night sitting of the House of Representatives the commission will look into seven incidents, ranging from the award of contracts in the late 1970's-early 1980's, the issuing of work permits to foreign prostitutes here, to the entry and distribution of drugs, arms and ammunition into Trinidad and Tobago.

The commission includes British Queen's Counsel Louis Blom-Cooper, who led a London-appointed enquiry into official corruption in the Turks and Caicos Islands which led to the collapse of the self-governing colony's government last July.

Well-known local criminal attorney, Senior Counsel Allan Alexander, also an independent senator in Parliament's upper house, will chair the commission whose other member is former Cuyana Supreme Court Chancellor J O F Haynes. Haynes is president of the Grenada Court of Appeal.

Robinson said government was negotiating with the United Kingdom to obtain the services of a Scotland Yard police officer not below the rank of superintendent to join three senior local police officers who will assist the commission in its enquiry.

The NAR government came to power last month in a landslide general election victory, toppling the PNM which ruled the country for 30 years. One of the NAR's election campaign pledges was to promote integrity in public life.

The terms of reference of the commission are: "To enquire into the involvement, if any, with or without any other person or persons of the existence of grounds for a plausible inference in that behalf of any public official or person who had offered for or holds or has held any public office or office in any political party in acquiescence in facilitating or participating in any illegal and-or criminal activities in relation to":

1. Negotiations for purchase of DC-9 aircraft from McDonnel-Douglas Corporation by the government of Trinidad and Tobago for the state-owned airline BWIA international.

2. Negotiations leading to the formation of the Trinidad Tesoro Petroleum Company, and the purchase of remaining shares held by the Texan Tesoro Company by the government here in November 1985 for 3.23 million barrels of residual fuel oil to be delivered over an 18-month period.

3. The contract awarded for construction of central Trinidad's abandoned Caroni Racing Complex, which more than doubled the original price.

A Texan construction company, SAM P Wallace admitted to a Puerto Rican Federal District Court that it had paid a U.S. 1.4 million dollar bribe to gain the contract.

4. The formation and operations of government's central Trinidad heavy industry site, Plipdeco, and the state iron and steel company, Iscott.

5. The construction and supply of plant and equipment and maintenance of the multi-million dollar Eric Williams Medical Complex which was opened last year.

6. The importation and distribution of narcotics, firearms and ammunition in Trinidad and Tobago.

7. The incidence of prostitution in Trinidad and Tobago, in particular the entry of women who were neither citizens nor residents here, including the granting of work permits.

The announcement of the commission came as a surprise following conclusion of the 1987 budget debate.

Earlier on in the debate, Robinson disclosed that a decision by the former cabinet in 1983 meant government now owed TT536,000 dollars (one TT dollar; 27.7 cents U.S.) to former ministers in place of leave not taken retroactive to 1977.

Of this total sum, said Robinson, 174,196 dollars was owed to former Prime Minister George Chambers, and sums ranging from 34,000 to 123,501 dollars to other ex-cabinet ministers.

BRIEFS

TRINIDAD TRAVEL TAX COLLECTION -- Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Jan 31, CANA - Overseas tour operators, travel agents and airlines today begin collecting travel tax as authorised in the 1987 budget presented last week. The monies collected are to be immediately paid to the airports authority. The increase in the ticket tax, from five to ten per cent, is expected, along with three other indirect tax changes, to yield government TT78.3 million dollars (one TT dollar: 27.7 U.S. cents). [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1239 GMT 31 Jan 87 FL]

WORKERS DESTROY MACHINERY; SURALCO CLOSES PLANTS

FL032154 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] Yesterday, the management of Suralco [Suriname Aluminum Company] completely closed two plants at Paranam and sent home the 2,000 workers and were told not to report for work today. The closure was prompted by protest actions taken yesterday by 30 workers during which machinery was destroyed. Police arrested four persons in Paranam [words indistinct] at the request of Suralco management.

Since January 26 last, the aluminum smelter has been put out of production because of sabotage to the power supply at Afobaka. Now with the new measure yesterday, there is a total standstill at Paranam.

Chairman of the Paranam Workers Union Fred Derby, said that he will do everything possible to resume production at the aluminum plant. Progress is also announced in the preparation to resume production in the plant in Moengo.

But concerning the action in Paranam yesterday, Derby said he has warned Suralco not to take any unilateral action referring to the measures taken by Suralco earlier to send home 600 workers. These workers are to be paid unitl the end of February. The union is protesting the decision adding that it was not consulted. Derby said that because of the unilateral decision by Suralco, negotiations last week were deadlocked.

Union Leader Eyes Situation

FL032220 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] The chairman of the Progressive Workers Union, (Peter Wentoak), said that what appears to be an emergency situation in Suriname since last week is much more serious than one would have thought.

To (?help) with the blowing up of the pylons, an attack has been made on employment and our jobs are at jeopardy. He expressed fears that certain employers will use the situation to fire workers and call for [word indistinct].

FRENCH GUIANA POLICE ARREST 3 BRUNSWIJK REBELS

FL032205 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 3 Feb 87

[Text] The French judicial authorities have arrested three members of the Brunswijk Gang in French Guiana. The men (Jan Cuso), (Makadunout), and [name indistinct] are being detained by French Guianese territory.

(Jan Cuso) and (Makadunout) have played an important role in the terrorist gang, which has been operating for more than 6 months now in Suriname.